

Ramblings from Rome

Curia Newsletter – No. 51

March 2010

Curia News

January 7: Departure of Fr General for a canonical visit in India, just in time for the closing of its Provincial Congregation and to participate, with don Marco Tanghetti, at the three Ordinations taking place that month.

February 3: Return of Fr General from India along with Fr Sunny Kalathil who is returning to his parish work in Trapani

February 10-12: Curia meetings.

February 15-19: Annual meeting of the Curia and the General Council of the Rosminian Sisters at Tor San Lorenzo Paulist retreat Centre and with input from Sr Brenda Dolphin (Sister of Mercy).

February 20: Fr General presides at the Feast of the Cell in Porta Latina with the participation of brethren, Sisters and Ascribed Members.

Departure of Fr Anthony Meredith for Calvario for the First Profession of Paul Gillham.

March 7-12: The Curia members, along with Fr Michael O'Shea, do their annual retreat at the Sisters of Divine Love retreat house at Guarcino.

March 15,16,18:- Curia Meetings. (None on the 17th for obvious reasons).

March 20: Fr Joe O'Reilly to Ireland to continue his Provincial duties whilst Fr Anthony Meredith leaves for Ngong to preach a retreat to our students.

March 25: Fr General presides at the vows renewal of Sr. Concetta Tipaldi in Via Aurelia.

March 31: Don Marco Tanghetti begins the retreat for the Porta Latina students.

Bishop John Arnold, Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster, and an Ascribed member, had lunch with our community early in February. He returned to meet



Bishop John Arnold

Father General after his return from visitation in India. Bishop John was in Rome for the Ad Limina visit of the Bishops of England and Wales.

Lord that I may see...whatever you did, you did it to me.

The eye camp at Kwalukonge was a fantastic success and took place from 21st to 25th of January this year. For four days there were five doctors and three nurses from Austria, together with four helpers a four man TV crew and three news reporters. In all, fifty eight people were operated on for cataracts, and one hundred and twenty people were given reading glasses. Two hundred and seven had consultations and received eye medication. Some of these will be ready for the eye camp scheduled for next year. Two Usambara sisters were operated on.

In total the Austrian team using two operating tables and one consulting room saw three hundred and eighty five people from Kwalukonge and the surrounding areas. For those who know our Kwalukonge Health Center, you can imagine what it was like with more than ninety patients, it was crowded!

Fr. Peter Bahati was most helpful in preparing for the eye camp, and the sisters and Brother Athanas looked after the patients particularly those operated on who were kept in hospital overnight. When their eyes were opened the following day one could see the excitement on their faces as they all were able to see again. It was as if Jesus had visited Kwalukonge.

The highlight of the eye camp was a young man of 17. He had lost his sight in one eye three years ago when it was hit by a stick while he was taking care of his father's goats. This young man was brought to the eye camp, and operated on. The following day many came from the village to see him. Miracle! he was able to see and read with his partially blind eye. The doctors despite all the damage were able to restore sixty percent of his normal sight. He was smiling all the way home as he left the hospital.

The eye camp would not have been a success without the presence of the cooks, and the chakula was delicious, including a goat from Fr. Victor (even if we had to buy it from him!). January 22 was a day of 'nyama choma' with a few beers, just a few, though Fr. Firmati says he only drank water!



As well as the tiring four days of operations and consultations, the doctors, nurses, helpers, TV crew and news reporters were able to visit other projects and places including our formation house in Lushoto, St. Patrick's Technical School and Rosmini Primary School. A group went to Mwambani for a swim (they will miss Mwambani if it is to be taken by Tanga Port Authority). We cannot but thank God for the work that was done for so many.



Fr. General in India

Institute News

January 4-9: The new Indian Province holds its first Provincial Congregation and whose Decrees are then approved by Fr General on March 20th, 2010.



Saji Puthenparakal

January 11: Priestly ordination at Kattoor, Kerala of Saji Puthenparakal by Mons. Stephen Athipozhiyil, Bishop of Alappuzha

January 13: Ordination of Henry Konnoth at Kumbalangi, Kerala, by Mons. Joseph Kariyil, Bishop of Cochin

January 23: Fr. Tom Thomas Pattasseril leaves for parish work in St. Joseph's, Cardiff



Henry Konnoth

January 28: Mons. Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of Mananthavady ordains Vinod Kurian Thennattil to the priesthood at Ambayathode, Kerala.

January 29: Death of Fr Flavio Marconcini in Verbania Hospital.



Vinod Kurian Thennattil

February 20: Joyful and grateful celebration of the feast of the Cell (marking the birth of the Institute) in Venezuela, Africa, India and other areas.

February 21: Fr David Myers (U.K. Provincial) receives the first Vows of Paul Gillham at Calvary.



Paul Gillham

February 21: Fr Gerry Cassidy dies in Dublin at the age of 79.

Publication at Verona of the second volume of the testimonies on “*Rosmini, the Man and the Saint*”, (edited by don Eduino Menestrina,).

Publication at Borgomanero of *Mother Maria Giovanna Antonietti* (first Central Superior of the Rosminian Sisters) on the bicentenary of her birth. (edited by Sr Lia Coppola)

March 31- Publication of the names of the delegates for the Italian Provincial Congregation (Calvario, June 14-19).

Michael Hill retires as editor of ‘Tui Motu’

After being at the helm of Tui Motu – InterIslands, an independent monthly Catholic magazine, for 12 years, Fr Michael Hill is in the process of handing over this small but sturdy vessel of opinion, news and comment to another Editor, and if not happy to ride gloriously into the sunset, at least is more than ready to take a break from New Zealand and visit the UK over the summer.

Michael, in Dunedin, along with his assistant Mrs Frances Skelton from the recently defunct Tablet, back in 1997, was able to fund raise, create and then establish with the support of other Religious Congregations and sponsors, a Catholic and Christian voice of opinion that was not under the direct control or authority of the Church as such. Together both Michael and Frances learned how to develop the skills of desk-

top publishing to the nth degree, run a small business on a shoe-string, but with the help of a succession of vital volunteers, collating, posting and publicising the magazine. Tui Motu was not the mouthpiece of any local bishop or diocese, nor any conference of bishops and

over the years it has established a wide circulation for a religious publication: a large part of its readership is among religious communities and through being passed on to those who do not subscribe as such.



The magazine has won a goodly number of awards for editorials, commentary, features, art and presentation and general content from varied Southern Pacific Press Associations – particularly from the

Christian Press Associations. Michael's work has been much appreciated: for his trenchant and wise comments; his choice of feature writers and commentators built up and cultivated over the years; for the lay-out of the magazine and its art work and illustrations; for the loyal readership among thinking, intelligent and appreciative folk from every and any denomination, and none.

The official farewell for Fr Michael is in Dunedin next week (Friday 30 April). His successor Fr Kevin Toomey O.P. will be welcomed. Fr Kevin was the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish, North East Valley, Dunedin, just prior to the Rosminians taking over that parish from the Dominican community in 1993.

