



*Indian Province To Begin Mission in Sri Lanka*



The Indian Provincial Definitory has decided to expand its apostolic activity to the island nation of Sri Lanka. The Province has accepted an invitation of the Bishop of Badulla, Most. Rev. Julian Winston Sebastian Fernando, to go to his diocese. This decision follows an exploratory visit earlier in the year by

Provincial Brother Augustine Polaprayil (second from left), Brother Pius Manothottil (far left) and Brother Albert

Thekkumkaduthadathi I (far right).

The initiative will follow what could be called “the East Timor” approach: two Brothers—Albert and Bino Parakkanassery—will live in a rented house for two years at Badulla (capital of the Uva Province) in order to be close to the people and find out what their most

urgent health needs are. On the basis of the Brothers’ experience the Indian Province will plan a more permanent work. As soon as the two Brothers receive their long term visas—hopefully before the end of this year—they will go to Sri Lanka.

Brother Albert Thekkumkaduthadathi is an experienced missionary and (after learning French in Paris) led the new team at Pamplemousses (Mauritius) for several years.

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Blessed Eustachius Kugler Relics
- ◆ Aspirants in Timor
- ◆ Ongoing Formation in PNG
- ◆ St. John of God Brothers Korea
- ◆ Asia Pacific Capitulars at General Chapter

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

*Order’s Intervention at Africa Synod* 2

*Aspirants in Timor* 2

*Blessed Eustachius Kugler Relics* 3

*Sister of Charity of St. John of God* 3

*St. John of God Brothers in Korea* 4

*Ongoing Formation in Papua New Guinea* 4

*Asia Pacific Capitulars at General Chapter* 4

*“Olallo House” - New Work in London*



St John of God Hospitaller Services has opened a new hostel in central London for homeless persons. The focus of the hostel is homeless persons from Eastern Europe. Most of these immigrants find work and accommodation

but a few fall into homelessness for a variety of reasons.

The hostel, dedicated to Blessed Jose’ Olallo Valdes, has 30 beds and an active programme that helps its ‘clients’ to get work and accommodation as quickly as possible. The hostel was opened by the then Archbishop of Westminster and took in its first residents during a cold spell of weather on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.

The dynamic focus of the hostel makes it

unique in Britain. A review after its first six months of operation showed that 65% of the residents obtained a job and accommodation within 6 weeks.

Brothers Michael Newman and John of God O’Neil live and work in Olallo House and feel that they are “at the cutting edge of social concern and that our Founder would approve of this work with the new poor of London ... homeless and far from home”.

*Order's Intervention at Africa Synod*

HELP FAMILIES TO  
DEAL WITH  
EMBARRASSMENT



*Brother André Sene o.h., who attended the recent Africa Synod at the Vatican, addressed a session of the Synod on a particular health need in Africa – treatment of persons who suffer from a mental illness.*

He told the assembled Cardinals (two seen at

side) and Bishops that, in Africa, it is virtually impossible to walk through the streets of a city with encountering a mentally ill person.

He pointed out that, in Africa, mental illness is third on the list of prevalent illnesses; he noted that African cultures, in a general way, still find difficulty in distinguishing between mental illness and evil possession.

He drew attention to the great lack of psychiatric centres where people can obtain appropriate

treatment and care and that international organizations and national governments allocate little, if any, funds to the treatment of mental illness.

He challenged the Church to help families to deal with embarrassment and the tendency to hide family members in need of psychiatric treatment; the Church could also denounce the indifference of governments with regard to respect and care for the mentally ill.

*Aspirants in Timor*

BROTHERS  
BEGAN TO  
RECEIVE REQUEST  
TO ENTER THE  
ORDER



Having begun their work of health services support at Luclubar in East Timor in 2004, the Brothers began to receive requests to join the Order from young Timorese men.

In response, the Brothers established a programme by which men seriously interested in joining the Order could, after a period of familiarisation,

be accepted as Aspirants.

The first stage of Aspirancy is spent living at home with the family.

During at least one year, "Home Aspirants" gather once a month with the Brothers for a weekend, sometimes at a retreat house, to be introduced to such things as the place of the consecrated life in the Church, the Order's Founder, history and Mission and other appropriate topics.

After a year or more some Aspirants come from their home to live in the

Community at Laclubar and experience the normal routine and practices of religious life. The next stage is Postulancy which requires the aspirants to move to the national capital, Dili. Admission to the novitiate will require a greater move—to the novitiate of the Provincial Delegation of Brazil. At present there are 4 "Home Aspirants". The two Community Aspirants and three Postulants are pictured above, with Brother Vitor Lameiras.

## Blessed Eustachius Kugler Relics



Following his beatification on 4 October, the relics of Blessed Eustachius Kugler are preserved now in a side chapel of the St. Pius church (see below) of the Brothers' hospital that he built at Regensburg. Although it may not loom large in our ideas about the life of Brother

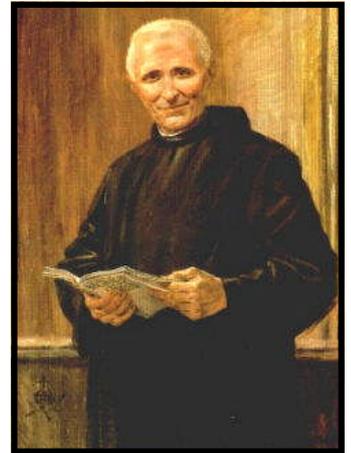
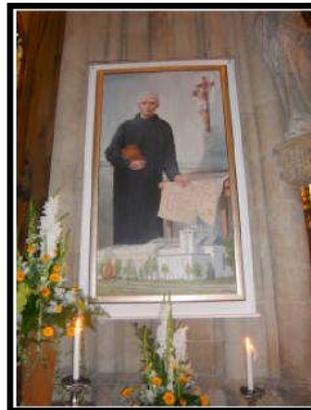
Eustachius, in his own region his memory is closely linked with his construction in the late 1920s of the Order's large hospital near one of the main

entrances to the city of Regensburg. This can be seen by the plans of the hospital which figure in the new Blessed's 'official portrait' that was unveiled in the Cathedral immediately after he was declared Blessed.

At that time of the hospital's construction the town of Regensburg lacked a hospital capable

of meeting the needs of its people.

The sister of Pope Benedict XVI was a patient, and died, in the hospital and the Pope's brother, Mgr. Georg Ratzinger, was present at the beatification ceremony, which was also attended, according to newspaper accounts, by 7,500 people.



## Sister of Charity of St. John of God Publishes Doctoral



Recently Sister Nirmala Kannamundayil published the dissertation connected with her obtaining a doctorate in Theology from the Pontifical

Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Alwaye, India.

Sister Nirmala currently lives at Podimattom in her capacity of Mistress of Novices of her congregation. Coming from Chinnar in the Idukki District of Kerala, she joined the Sisters after completing her secondary schooling. Before undertaking her theological studies Sister

Nirmala trained as a general nurse in the Order's St. John's Nursing School at Kattappana. Another member of her family, a younger sister, is also a Sister of Charity of St. John of God.

The subject of Sister Nirmala's dissertation is "**Transforming Accompaniment—an integral approach to Religious Formation in the light of the Emmaus**

**experience**". She presented and 'defended' her dissertation on 24 February 2009. She highlights the 'accompaniment' aspect of religious formation and finds a concrete example in the accompaniment that Jesus gave to his two followers on the journey that he shared with them to Emmaus.

## St. John of God Brothers Korea



A cafe launched by Korean church workers is giving a newfound sense of confidence to its staff of mentally challenged people.

Marcia Choi Seung-mi, one of eight such people who work in Granada cafe, says she is now confident she can do things as well as other people, UCA News reports.

“Two-and-half years’ work as a coffeemaker here have given me that confidence and I really thank Brother Andrew Lee who helped me work here,” said Choi.

“In the early stages I couldn’t tell the difference between cappuccino and café latte. I even made hot coffee many times when customers ordered it iced,” the 34-year-old Catholic told UCA News.

Choi now dreams of becoming a barista, a coffee-house employee who prepares and serves espresso-based coffee drinks.

Kim Nam-deok, who like Choi works three days a week at the cafe, shared: “I work as a cashier and a waiter but I am still slow to calculate money. Customers wait for me patiently without complaint, for which I really thank them.”

“I am so happy here and don’t want to go to any other workplace,” he added with a smile.

Choi makes coffee while Kim prepares to serve customers

Cafe manager Yu Jum-hwa, told UCA News that as far she knew, Granada was the first coffee shop run by the Catholic Church for the welfare of disabled people.

The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God in Korea, which serves the disabled, alcoholic, homeless and aged, runs the project at its Evergreen Rehabilitation Centre in Seoul.

Yu, who is also the social welfare worker at the centre, said that Choi and Kim are the star performers at the cafe and get 380,000 won (US\$320) a month.

“When I got my first pay from the cafe, I bought a handkerchief for my mother and a necktie for my father. They were so happy they almost cried. I will never forget that,” Choi said.

Center director Brother Andrew Lee Eun-myeong said Evergreen also runs small businesses such as operating vending machines, packing stationery and making religious items.

People with disabilities are employed in all these businesses, he said.

## Ongoing Formation in PNG



As part of the ongoing formation programme of the Province, and the PNG Delegation, the Scholastic Brothers recently attended a Counseling Course that commenced on 21 September. The course, conducted by Brother Vianney, ran from Monday to Friday for four weeks.

The programme was quite intensive and the only break was for the Brothers to attend the memorial Mass for Brother Damian. The Mass was celebrated by the assistant priest of the Cathedral parish. At the Mass the Brothers paid tribute to the time that Brother Damian had served at Kamina and in Port Moresby.

Some Scholastic Brothers recently received permission to renew their temporary vows. They are Brothers Richard Taumana, Reginald Tanek, Nevol Anele and Joachim Umba.

## Asia Pacific Capitulars at General Chapter



All the Asia Pacific Region Capitulars arrived at the Chapter venue in Mexico. They are: from the General Council, Australasia, India, Korea, Vietnam: Mathew Tran Doan Phi, John Baptist Tran Cong Minh and Peter Pham Van Phu. The 2nd English-speaking group at the Chapter is composed of the Capitulars from the Asia Pacific Region (pictured above at a meeting).

The Chapter recognises that the Brothers from Asia and the Pacific bring a special quality to the Chapter. They are experienced in carrying out the mission of the Order in countries in which there are many different religions and cultures. This enables them to look at the challenges and possibilities of the Order with ‘ecumenical’ eyes and they have made proposals to the Chapter that show a wide breadth of vision.

### To Contact Us

St. John of God Brothers  
P O Box BN 1055  
Burwood North. NSW 2134, Australia  
Tel: 02 9747 1699  
Fax: 02 9744 3262  
E: provincial@johnofgodbrothers.org.au

