

## *Inauguration of New Complex at Laclubar, East Timor*



The President of East Timor, Dr. Ramos Horta (seen above with Prior General Donatus Forkan), attended the inauguration of the Order's new complex at Laclubar on 30 July 2010. The complex consists of a Mental Health Crisis Centre, a

Formation Centre, a Community Residence and a Candidates' House. In his speech President Horta said that this was one of the most significant developments in his country since it achieved independence from Indonesia in 2002.

More than 2000 persons participated in the celebrations which lasted 18 hours! The chief church dignitary present was Bishop Basilio do Nascimento who invited the Order to East Timor and his diocese. Other civil dignitaries present included representatives of the Ministry of Health, Doctor Maira Herminia Cabral of Fundacao Gulbenekian which had contributed a substantial amount of money to the Project, the heads of the District of Manatuto and corresponding Sub - districts. Also present were many parish priests, religious and lay people.

Representing the Province of Portugal, to which the Mission of Laclubar belongs, was the Provincial, Br. Jose Augusto Gaspar Louro, the Provincial Secretary, Br. Alvero, the First Provincial Councillor, Br. Adelino and the Director of Saint John of God Fundraising Portugal.

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## *Asia Pacific Region School of Hospitality in Korea*



From 21 to 25 June thirty-two Brothers and Co-workers (seen above) assembled at the Order's Damyang Conference Centre for the first Asia Pacific Region School of Hospitality. Amongst the participants were the Prior General and General Councillor

Brother Vincent Kochamkunnel. Participants in the School came from Australia, China, India, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and the Philippines. The Korean Province hosted the School and provided invaluable accommodation,

facilities and translation services.

The theme of the School was "To Be Charismatic Management, Management Must be Excellent". The basis of the School was the planning and operation of an imaginary but typical centre of the Order in a mythical East Asian country. This involved carrying out a feasibility study, the planning of physical and governance structures, devising policies, procedures and protocols for quality management based on

the principles and values of the Order.

Each participant took away from the School a previously prepared text book with notes on all the topics treated. The Prior General brought the School to a close on 25 June by presenting all participants with a graduation certificate.



## *First Japanese Brother Celebrates Golden Jubilee*

The Order has been present and active in Japan since Brothers from the Bavarian Province made a foundation at Kobe in 1951. The first Brothers to come to Japan (Brothers Bosco Würzburger, Ägidius Lutter and Kupertin Ederer) established themselves at Kobe-Suma on a large piece of land that allowed them to set up a residential centre for men who had been treated for psychiatric illnesses. They also offered a hydrotherapy programme called “Kneipp Treatment”. Today the Apostolic Works of the Order in Japan are: the St. John of God Centre for Persons with Mental Illness,

Kobe-Suma; St. John of God Centre for Persons with a Learning Disability, Kobe-Kita; and Seibu Day Centre for Persons with Mental and Physical Disabilities. The membership of the Provincial Delegation of Japan is small: 7 Solemn Professed Brothers (one of whom is Indian and another Korean).

The first Japanese Brother to celebrate 50 years of professed membership of the Order was Brother George Tokuda (80 years) who made his first profession on 15 August 1960. After a special

visit to Granada, Spain, in July, Brother George celebrated his Golden Jubilee in Japan on 20 August with a Mass of Thanksgiving during which he renewed his vows. This was followed by small party for about 40 guests. Guests included Korean Brothers John Jung (Provincial) and Andrew Kim and Korean Co-worker Mr. Gwangyeop Kim. At present a Japanese candidate for the Order is in Korea undergoing initial formation.



## *Prior General Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Profession*



On 6 September Brother Donatus, the current Prior General, marked the 50th anniversary of his profession of religious vows at Stillorgan, Ireland, in 1960. After celebrating the jubilee at Dublin on 8 September with the three Brothers who made profession with him, Brother Donatus returned

to Rome to share the celebration of his jubilee with the major superiors of the Order gathered in Rome for a post-Chapters assembly and many other Brothers, Co-workers and friends of the Order—100 in fact.

All these were present in the chapel of the General Curia at 11 a.m. on Sunday 12 September when Bishop Jose Luis Redrado presided at a Mass of Thanksgiving for the vocation and graces received by Brother Donatus during the past 50 years. Following the liturgical celebration the worshippers adjourned to

the Chapter Room where Brother Donatus received some mementos of the occasion and a papal Blessing. In response to the tributes offered to him during the Mass and meal, Brother Donatus spoke of his gratitude to God for the life that he had led and described how his Hospitaller vocation had been confirmed and consolidated by his missionary experiences - particularly in Korea.

After serving in the General Government of the Order as a General Councillor from 1994 to 2000, Brother Donatus had been elected the 51st Prior General of the Order.

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Born in Ireland in 1942 and baptised William, Brother Donatus (as he became known from the time that he entered the Order's novitiate at Stillorgan in 1959) had obtained his secondary education in the Order's Apostolic School near Bray in County Wicklow. After his first profession of vows he trained as a nurse, specialising in the care and treatment of persons with a psychiatric illness. His typically Irish missionary spirit was consolidated by his attendance at the Order's International School of Spirituality and Missionology in Rome from 1965. In 1968 he was sent to Gwangju in the south of Korea where the then Irish Province had opened an out-patients day clinic for poor people. During the ensuing years

he filled a number of offices in Korea, with a particular orientation towards the religious formation of Korean entrants to the Order.

Recalled to Ireland and elected Provincial in 1992, Brother Donatus only served in that office for a short period of two years before being called to serve the Order and its mission on the international level as a general councillor in the first generalate of Brother Pascual Piles. He was re-elected to the position of General Councillor in the second generalate of Brother Pascual and, in 2006, succeeded him as Prior General.

As Prior General, Brother Donatus has vigorously addressed the challenge of

leading the Order into a future in which there is likely to be increasingly fewer Brothers and much greater participation of lay persons in the mission of John-of-God Hospitality. His most exhaustive statement on that situation is a written and audio-visual presentation on "The Changing Face of the Order".

### *New Logo for Oceania Province*

The Oceania Province which is made up of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea has now taken on a new logo.

The logo speaks for itself but there are a couple of thoughts behind the



concept which are worth noting.

Firstly, the number of points on the stars have been selected to either represent the number of centuries the order has been caring for people (5 points) or the 8 states of Australia + New Zealand (9 points).

Secondly, and probably more obviously, the red and blue options refer directly to the colours shared in the Australian and New Zealand flags.

## *Earthquake and John of God Works in Christchurch*



Health Care facilities – with the exception of the hospital's chapel (pictured) which sustained some damage. The Saint John of God

works in Christchurch include the hospital, community group homes for persons with physical disabilities and a youth welfare service.

The Order has been in Christchurch since 1955 when, at Addington, it opened a residential special school for boys with

learning disabilities. This school transferred in 1966 to Halswell where it occupied the former Good Shepherd Convent and Home. In 1971 the convent building (since demolished) was converted into a hospital for aged persons and persons who had physical and neurological disabilities. This hospital developed over the year and is now housed in completely new buildings. It, with the Order's other services in Christchurch, merged with those of St. John of God Health Care in 2007.

The Order has a Community of three Brothers in Christchurch. The Community has an ongoing involvement with the St. John of God Mission and Brothers immediately 'reported for duty' at the hospital and the community homes when the earthquake subsided. They reported that, while no personnel or patients had been harmed, life at the hospital and community homes (and the Brothers' residences) suffered from the widespread loss of power and water.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake which rocked the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, on the morning of Saturday 4 September caused widespread damage in the city. However it did not harm or do any structural damage to St. John of God



The Congregation of Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded in Ciempozuelos (Madrid-Spain) on 31st May 1881, arose as a response to the situation of neglect in health and the social exclusion of people with psychiatric illnesses of that time. In those days the traditional neglect of the sick and the lack of adequate public health care was noticeable in the lives of many people with psychiatric illnesses, of children with physical disabilities, scrofula, tuberculosis and other illnesses, who were marginalized and left to their own resources.

Benedict Menni, a native of Milan (Italy) a priest of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, was sent to Spain in 1867 by Pope Pius IX and the General Superior of the Order, Father Alfieri, to restore the Order after it had almost disappeared following the suppression of Mendizabal.

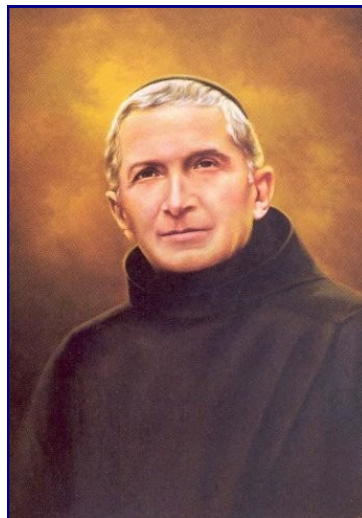
In 1881 Benedict Menni, together with María Josefa Recio and María Angustias Giménez founded the Congregation of the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in order to care for people suffering from mental disorders, combining two fundamental criteria charity and science.

The name Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart expresses the charisma of the Congregation, because its reason in the Church is the practice of hospitaller charity, in a life of religious

consecration according to the model of perfect Charity, Christ, symbolized in his Heart.

The Congregation of the Sisters Hospitallers is present today in 25 Countries of Europe, America, Africa and Asia.

### *St. Benedict Menni*



Benedict Menni offered his whole life for humanity. He pledged all his years for its good. If you want to know something about him, if you want to know what was his style, the most outstanding characteristic of his strong personality, take a Bible, open it at the Gospel of St. Luke and read:

"There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands. [...] a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon him and when he saw him, his heart was filled with compassion. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. He

then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him" This man, that Good Samaritan of the Gospel is the most faithful and fitting portrait that can be made of Benedict Menni.

He was born in Milan (Italy) on 11th March 1841, son of Luis Menni and Luisa Figini, the 5th of 15 children. Together with the family background, which affects the life of every person, four events intervened in his decision to become a Brother of St. John of God:

- a spiritual retreat when he was 17 years old
- the advice of a hermit in Milan
- his daily prayer before a picture of Our Lady, and
- the example of the Brothers of St. John of God caring for the wounded soldiers arriving at Milan station from Magenta, a service which Menni himself practiced

He entered the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God in 1860 and changed his baptismal name of Angel Hercules to Benedict. He studied philosophy and theology first in the

Seminary of Lodi and then in the Roman College (Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome). He was ordained priest in 1866. Pius IX entrusted him with the complex mission of restoring the extinct Hospitaller Order in Spain, a task that he began in 1867. After the restoration of the Order in Spain, there followed at the end of the XIX century the restoration of the Order in Portugal, and at the beginning of the XX century, in Mexico.

On 31st May 1881 he founded the Congregation of Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He was a man of inexhaustible charity with exceptional gifts of government. By the time of his death in Dinan (France) in 1914, he had created 22 large centres: homes for needy people, general hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals. His remains are in the Mother House in Ciempozuelos (Spain). On 23 June 1985 he was declared blessed by Pope John Paul II, and on 21 November 1999 he was canonized. The Church acknowledges his holiness, which he lived to an extraordinary degree.

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