



News from the Generalate

5th Year, No 11

Congregation of Holy Cross

November 2008

Perpetual Professions

Congratulations to the following religious who made their perpetual profession of vows on November 29th at Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, India: **Mr. Agi Paul Thottungal (NE), Mr. Jomy Mathew (NE), Mr. Roby V. Menachery (NE), Mr. Roshan Loy D'Souza (SI), Mr. Tarun Thomas Hrangkhawl (NE), Mr. Telesphore T. (SI).**

Congratulations and *ad Multos Annos* to our newest professed members in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Council of the Congregation

The **Council of the Congregation** (all provincial, vicariate and district superiors with the general council) met November 3-10 in Rome; the meetings were held at Casa LaSalle. Among items considered:

- Report of the superior general;
- Review of unique opportunities and challenges for the 2009 Chapters as identified by the provincial, vicariate and district superiors;
- Summary of major issues that should be addressed by the 2010 General Chapter as identified by those same superiors;

--Consideration of the topic "How is Holy Cross Missionary Today?" with input from **Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC**, and comments from superiors based on their experience including **Father Vernet Luxana (H), Brother John Britto (VI) and Father Arthur Colgan (EP)**. The director of the Holy Cross Mission Center, **Father Thomas Smith (IP)**, presented the conclusions of the *Mission of Hope: The Future for a Global Holy Cross* conference;

--Presentation and discussion on the topic of "Vocations: Implementation of the Congregational Vocation Plan" by vocation directors **Brother Jonathan Beebe (EB) and Father Edwin Obermiller (IP)**;

--Identification by the general administration of specific trends in the congregation from a review of the general visitations to date;

--Update and information on plans to celebrate the pending canonization of Blessed Brother André;

--Review of various matters presented by the general administration: Finance Commission, Solidarity Commission, Education Committee, Justice and Peace, Vocation Promotion and Formation, Congregational website reconstruction, Lay Associates Survey report, Congregational Directory of Prayers preparation.

***‘Defeat the Culture of
Violence; Promote the World
of Grace’.***

Our religious in India serve in or near areas that have been subject to religious and/or political violence recently. **Brother John Britto (VI)**, who has served as a member of the National Executive of the Conference of Religious of India (CRI), notes that at a recent meeting the committee took time to review the continuing campaign of hatred against Christians in India and reflected on some of the concrete steps to be taken when faced with such challenges.

In a message to all of the religious in India, the commission urged its membership “not to lose our focus and to remain faithful to our call to serve the poor and needy.” Here is the message, relevant to all of us:

We, the Members of the National Executive of Conference of Religious of India gathered in Seva Kendra, Patna on 9-10 October 2008, reflected on the tragic and painful happenings against Christians in Orissa and Karnataka and in other parts of the country. Our hearts go out in solidarity with the victims of this ghastly violence and terrorism. Your strong faith and suffering have strengthened the church in India. We reassure you our continued support with our prayers and various

affirmative actions. These violence and threats will not deter us from carrying out our mission of being with the crucified Lord and the crucified of this world.

--We strongly condemn the well-planned, systematic and protracted violence of the ‘mob-terrorism’ caused by the Hindutva ideologues and their foot-soldiers against Christians, in a number of states in the country.

--We condemn the burning and raping of women, including a Christian nun, in the full view of the public and the armed police of Orissa.

--We are deeply anguished at the deliberate, partisan attitude of the State Governments in not controlling the violence with a firm hand.

--We are very much disturbed at the ineffective and delayed intervention of the Central Government and its lack of decisive action with regard to the orchestrated violence against Christians across the country.

--We appeal to the Central and State Governments to provide security to the victims and to rehabilitate the displaced and to prosecute the perpetrators of violence and terrorism.

--We demand that the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the country for its citizens be restored fully to the Christians in Orissa.

--We demand impartial investigation into the manner in which the Christians have been targeted in the name of religion in Karnataka and in other parts of the country while the state administration chose to look the other way.

--We appeal to all men and women of good will of our beloved country to protect and reaffirm the secular and democratic ethos of our Motherland and to uphold the diverse and composite culture expressed through the celebrated axiom "One Global Family."

--As citizens of this country, we appeal to all to join hands in building a mass movement to uphold the Constitutions of India and the rule of Law.

--We pledge to continue the substantial contribution that the Christian community makes in the nation building, particularly in the fields of education and health, especially for the weaker sections of the society.

--We rededicate ourselves to the empowerment of the weaker sections of the society to live with dignity. Violence and threats shall not deter us in being true to our faith that does justice and promote peace and harmony.

--We pledge to respond to the culture of violence with the alternate sublime world of 'grace'.

Family Rosary in Mexico

Several of the religious in Mexico traveled to Guadalajara to participate in the *5 Congreso del Santo Rosario* last month. The *Congreso*, which is sponsored by the Dominicans, was also co-sponsored by Family Rosary-Mexico. Among the speakers, and the main celebrant at the closing mass, was **Father John Phalen (EP)**, President of Holy Cross Family Ministries. John was also interviewed on TV by "Maria-Visión" and on "Radio Maria." **Father Daniel Panchot (IP-Mexico)** and **Mr. Alfredo Olvera (IP-Mexico)** took advantage of their presence at the *Congreso* to distribute Holy Cross vocational materials.

Holy Cross Associates (MW) Regional Meetings-Workshops

The Holy Cross Associates held a regional meeting on November 8th in South Bend to explore the topic: "Vision of Holy Cross Associates: A Charismatic Expression of the Congregation of Holy Cross." **Sister Kate Kuenstler PHJC, JCD**, gave presentations and facilitated the sessions the outcomes of which included:

- to provide occasions for Holy Cross Associates to build upon relationships and create new ones;
- to develop an understanding about lay association in Holy Cross;

--to become more informed and formed through the Holy Cross Associate *Vision Statement*;

--to develop information/suggestions for a report to the provincial and chapter delegates.

The workshop will be repeated at the Associates regional meeting in Phoenix on January 17th.

All Saints/All Souls Rituals in Roma

Members of the community at the generalate made our annual pilgrimage to **Campo Verano-Roma** and our Holy Cross cemetery plot on November 1st. Gathered at our communal burial site, we placed flowers, prayed psalms, sang hymns, and offered prayers for our deceased brethren buried in Rome. Holy Cross members interred at Campo Verano include: Brother Silverio Bizzari (1908), Father Jean-Marie Lecroq (1915), Father Philippe Herckes (1915), Father Ernest Labbé (1918), Brother Nicholas Ochs (1955), Monsignor William Doheny (1982) and Father William Hogan (1995). May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Visitations

Father Mario Lachapelle and **Brother John Paige** conducted the general visitation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (Bangladesh) in November. In addition to individual and ministry visits in the greater

Dhaka area, the visitors also met religious and visited Holy Cross ministries and bishops in the dioceses of Chittagong, Mymensingh and Dinajpur.

Justice and Peace

Brother David Andrews (EB), Congregational Coordinator for Justice and Peace writes: "In November I participated in the second annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in Raleigh, North Carolina. Its first meeting had 700 participants and this second one had 2,000, thus showing the growth of the sustainable development project in higher education. I especially wanted to visit our Holy Cross network. I spent some time visiting **James M. Mazurek**, Director of Sustainability at the **University of Notre Dame**. He gave a presentation on the use of light and energy at Notre Dame that was well received. In our conversation he invited Holy Cross members to visit the website GREEN.ND.EDU online. There were other Catholic universities present including Saint John's in Collegeville and Saint Benedict's in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

I was pleased to receive a number of congregational responses to the survey on mining and extractives impacting the environment. The survey, formed from the Major Superiors of Men of the USA, has

been posted on the **Holy Cross International Justice Office** website.

In recent months I have been helping to plan a number of panels at the United Nations, one December 10th on human rights, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights. I am also working on a panel on the right to food to be presented (tentatively) in March of 2009 at the UN with **Amartya Sen**, a graduate of Holy Cross-sponsored **Saint Gregory's High School** in Dhaka, Bangladesh; Sen is a Nobel Prize winner in economics who now teaches at Harvard University.

I am working to support community based development efforts in food and water that respect social and environmental outcomes in harmony with our congregation-wide concern for sustainable development.

Generalate Visitors

Visitors to the generalate this month included those associated with the Council of the Congregation meeting: **Father Louis-Joseph Boudreau (A)**, **Father Peter Rocca (IP)**, **Father Arthur Colgan (EP)**, **Father David Tyson (IP)**, **Brother Binoy Gomes (SJ)** and **Father Éric Jasmin**. Additional visitors included **Brother Paul Bednarczyk (EB)**.

Christmas 2008

On behalf of the entire Generalate Community, I take this opportunity to extend to you our joyful and prayerful

Christmas Greetings.

Just as the Incarnation is the revelation of God's inestimable love for us, so too your heart reveals God's presence with us still.

Blessed Basile Moreau's Christmas Prayer is our own:

"O Divine Infant, accomplish the mystery of your birth also in my heart."

Thank you for making Christ present in our Holy Cross Family.

In joyous praise,

*Hugh W. Cleary CSC
Superior General*