

Relocation, Relocation, Relocation

In January this year, the Provincial Curia (Central Administration) relocated from Blackwellgate in the centre of Darlington to purpose-built office accommodation on the outskirts of the town. The Northern Regional Administration is also located here.

The new address is:

**Saint Bede's House, Morton Park Way,
Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 4XZ**

Telephone numbers remain the same:

Tel: 01325 373700

Fax: 01325 373708

Email: enquiries@sjogcareservices.org.uk



Sister Rosie Joseph and Sister Lisa make a fraternal visit to look at our services in the UK.

Their congregation, the Sisters of Charity of Saint John of God, was founded in 1977 by a Hospitaller Brother, Fortunatus Thanhäuser who also founded the Order's mission at Kattappana in India in 1970. The Sisters work in their own services providing care for orphans and children with learning disabilities in Kerala and Velamoor, and they also help run the Order's services.



We hope that you enjoy this issue of the Hospitaller. As an interactive publication, we welcome any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, and would be delighted to include on the Hospitaller mailing list, additional names and addresses of friends, family or colleagues. If at any time your details change or you wish to have your name removed from the Hospitaller mailing list, please do let us know.

We acknowledge sincere appreciation to all those who continue to support our work. We will always be grateful for financial support and voluntary help, which ensures the continuation and extension of the Hospitaller mission.

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO KAREN GILROY, PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER

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PASSION FOR THE HOSPITALITY OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD IN THE WORLD TODAY

by Brother John Martin, OH, Provincial and Chief Executive



The above title is the theme for the 66th general chapter of our Order, which will be held in Rome from 2nd to 22nd October this year. Brothers and co-workers from the five continents of the world have been reflecting together at regional conferences on this theme: 'PASSION FOR THE HOSPITALITY OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD IN THE WORLD TODAY'. Brother Stanislaus Neild and I, together with Anne Rowlands and Mike Parr, our two assistant Chief Executives, attended the European regional conference in Warsaw at the beginning of April. This conference, and the others held around the world, forms part of the bigger preparation for our general chapter.

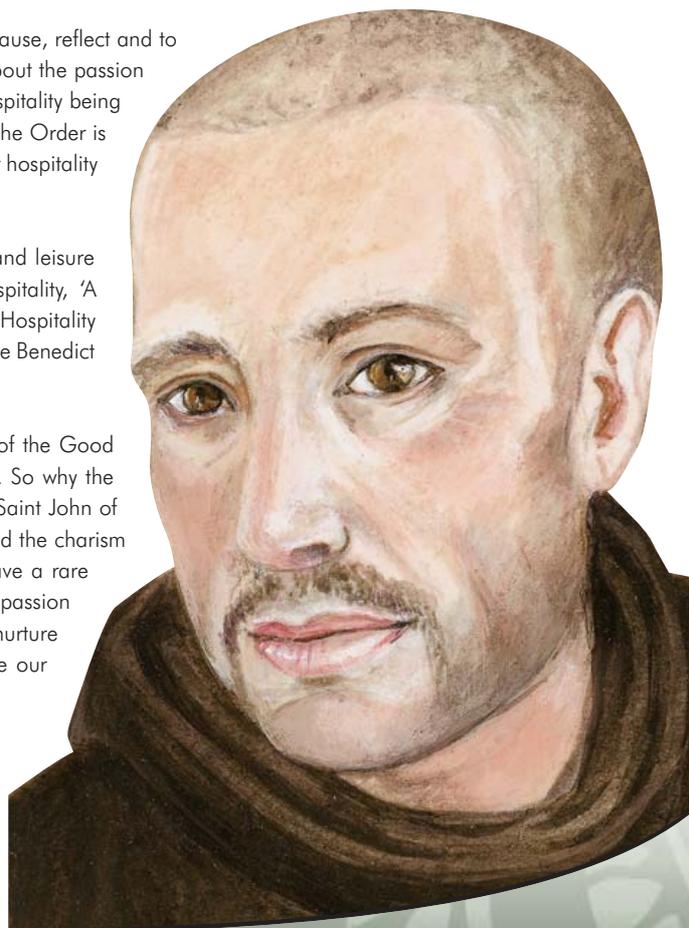
General chapters, like provincial chapters, are a time first and foremost to stop, pause, reflect and to listen to the voice of God and to ask ourselves what is God saying to us today about the passion of hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today? How is the passion for hospitality being lived and experienced today in the United Kingdom and around the world where the Order is present? I believe we Brothers and co-workers are challenged to be the passion for hospitality of Saint John of God in the world of today.

Hospitality is expressed in so many different ways: family, friends, church, hotel and leisure industry, to name but a few. There have been many books written about hospitality, 'A Christian View of Hospitality', 'The Hospitality of God', 'Making Room-Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition', the Order's 'Charter of Hospitality' and more recently Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical 'Deus Caritas Est' – God is Love.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God bases its spirituality on the Gospel of the Good Samaritan, LK 10:25-37. In all of these forms, hospitality is expressed and lived. So why the need to continually question, search and ponder for the passion of hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today? On New Year's Day in 1572, Pope Saint Pius V described the charism of hospitality as the flower missing in the garden of the church. So when you have a rare flower, you do all you can to nurture and protect it from all harm. So it is with our passion for the hospitality of Saint John of God, we Brothers and co-workers protect and nurture our gift of hospitality through love, service and reverence of the people who use our services just like the Good Samaritan.

Pope Saint Pius V describes our Hospitaller spirituality as the Good Samaritan spirituality because of the manner in which Saint John of God performed his mission of hospitality.

(continued overleaf)



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Developing the
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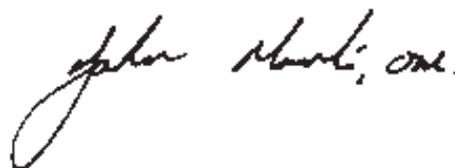
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Passion for the hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today

(Continued from the front page)

The story of the Good Samaritan doesn't get off to a very good start. The relationship between Jews and Samaritans was not good at that time. The thought of a Samaritan helping a Jew was unheard of. How did the traveller feel when this 'enemy,' instead of robbing him and finishing him off, approached him with reverence and compassion? In this Gospel story we can see how the spirit of hospitality is clearly expressed in the story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan traveller was moved with compassion and hospitality for his neighbour. This same challenge that Jesus made to the lawyer in the story of the Good Samaritan is being made to you and I today. I believe more than ever before, there is a deeper search for hospitality, compassion, reverence, mercy and love in our world. If you and I choose to, we can become instruments in bringing alive the passion for the hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today.

The Order's "Charter of Hospitality" talks of the prophetic power of hospitality and the need for us to 'read the future' through the eyes of God. The passion for hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today means every act of hospitality has to be a sign of hope for the future. So as Jesus said to the Lawyer, 'Go and do the same yourself.'



Memorial Mass

The annual memorial mass was celebrated at Saint Joseph and Saint Francis Xavier church in Richmond on 21st January 2006.

This celebration, which began in 1994, is a service of thanksgiving for all those who have died in the past twelve months, and especially those who had some direct relationship with the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God in this country. Friends and families of the deceased were invited to the mass by the Provincial, Brother John Martin, which was celebrated by Brother Robert Moore. The mass was followed by a buffet lunch in the parish hall prepared and served by the parishioners. The Act of Remembrance recalled the lives of twenty people including residents, former members of staff and friends of the Order.

**David Boyes
Elizabeth Cowles
Gerard Finn
Richard Gibson
John Hanaher
Francis Hughes
Barry Lawson
Tom Marsh
Graham Newman
Celia Pratt**

**Brenda Pocock
Arthur Preston
Louisa Saukila
Sister Bernadette
Sister Matilda L.S.A.
Sister Patricia L.S.A.
Brother Anselm O.H.
Brother Bernard Farrell O.H.
Brother John Pielow O.H.
Brother Oliver Donlon O.H.**

Saint John of God Feast Day

The Feast Day of Saint John of God on 8th March 2006 was celebrated throughout the world in the Order's hospitals, centres and homes.

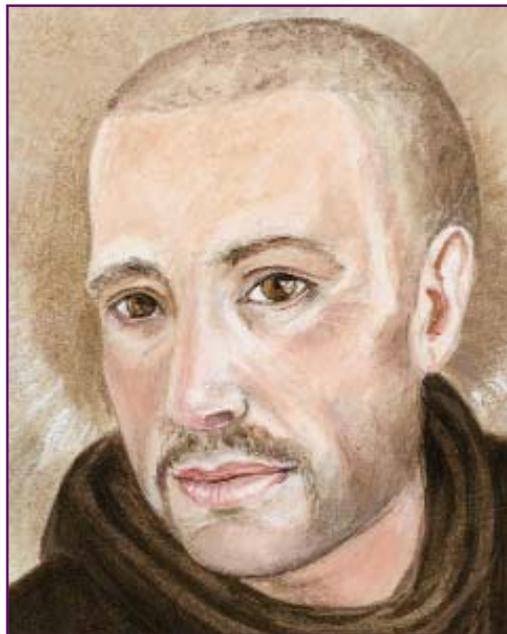
Over 150 people gathered in St Mary's, Barrhead, Scotland for the mass of Saint John of God which included prayers for healing and anointing of the sick. The mass was celebrated by Brother Stanislaus Neild and the parish priest, Father Stephen Ballie. The congregation included a number of people from the Supported Living Services managed by Saint John of God Care Services in and around Barrhead.

Further south in Richmond, North Yorkshire, the mass of Saint John of God was celebrated with parishioners and Brothers in Saint Joseph and Saint Francis Xavier church. Refreshments followed in the parish hall. Later in the day, a newly laid out rose garden was dedicated in Lindisfarne Court, Darlington, to the memory of Arthur Preston, who had been a resident at Saint Cuthbert's, Hurworth, from the early 1980's and then Lindisfarne Court, Darlington, for a further 13 years. Arthur's wife, Mary, was present at the

dedication of the rose garden, which was given the name "Preston's Corner". Residents from Sandown Road, Billingham, and Dalby View, Coulby Newham, also attended an evening buffet which was prepared by the staff of Lindisfarne Court.



Saint John of God Feast Day celebrations in Scotland



This painting of Saint John of God was commissioned by Brother John Martin, OH, and painted by Samantha Hogg who works at Rossmann Haigh, a design company with whom the Charity works. Reproduced here the same size as the original, it depicts Saint John of God in a contemporary style, with the aim of capturing the kindness and selflessness of a man whose work inspired a mission of hospitality to spread throughout the world.



Reggie Kirby

Lives Remembered

After several months of declining health, Reggie Kirby died on 2nd February 2006 in Scorton, aged 76. Reggie was born in Calcutta, and moved to Darlington when he was very young. For over 50 years he was a resident at Saint John of God Hospital Scorton, and remained there after the Brothers left in 2003. Reggie will be remembered for his independence of spirit and his determination to live life to the full in spite of his physical disability. His funeral took place in Richmond and was attended by many friends, care staff past and present and Brothers. Reggie leaves behind many friends and a sister-in-law, Eileen.

Alan Richardson worked for the Hospitaller Order for a number of years, first of all in the operating theatre in the Saint John of God Hospital Scorton, and later as a charge nurse at Saint Cuthbert's Hospital, Hurworth Place, near Darlington. He died at home after a long illness on 17th March 2006. We extend our sympathy to his wife, June and her family.

The Brothers



Brother John Stretton

Brother John Stretton renewed his temporary vows of religious profession on 6th March 2006 in the Brothers' community at Casa Venegas, Neilston, Scotland. Brother John is a member of the community in Welwyn Garden City and continues with his theological studies and close involvement with the works of the Charity in Hertfordshire.



Brother Joe Carroll

Brother Joseph Carroll recently moved to Leeds, where he has taken residence with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Headingley.



Brother Michael Newman

On 26th February 2006, Brother Michael Newman celebrated his 40th anniversary of his religious profession as a Hospitaller Brother. Brother Michael made first profession of vows in 1966 at Saint Raphael's, Celbridge in County Kildare, Ireland. He is currently a member of the community at Genil, Halifax.



Brother John O'Neill



Brother John O'Neill has returned to the Province after 16 years in Zambia, Malawi and Ghana. He has first completed a sabbatical in Ireland and will take up an appointment in the near future.

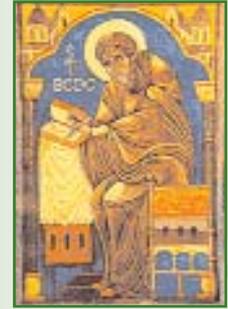
COULD YOU BE A BROTHER OF THE
HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT
JOHN OF GOD?

For more information on vocations, contact our
Vocations Director, Brother Michael Newman:
michaelnewman@thebrothers.org.uk
Genil, 27 Savile Road, Halifax, HX1 2BA



The Feast of Saint Bede

Saint Bede is the patron of our Province and commemorates this dedication each year on the 25th May. Saint Bede was chosen as patron when the Province was established in 1953. Up to that time a single Anglo-Irish Province had been responsible for the Order's works in Ireland and England. This year marks the 126th year of the arrival of the Brothers in England. The Venerable Bede, a Northern Saint, is buried in the Galilee Chapel of Durham Cathedral.



THE VENERABLE BEDE

Born AD673, in Northumbria, Saint Bede the Venerable became the most important source of our knowledge of the development of Christianity in early Britain. His literary works provided a solid foundation of our knowledge of British history.

At the tender age of seven he was delivered to the gates of the nearby monastery at Wearmouth, where the start of his Benedictine education began, delivered by St. Benet Biscop. He moved to the monastery of St Peter & St Paul at Jarrow on the Tyne, where he was to become a monk and live out the rest of his days. Little evidence exists with regard to Bede leaving the monastery. He was thought to have left the monastery only twice, a trip to York and one to Lindisfarne. It is documented by the author of "The Life of Ceolfrith" that when Bede was approximately twelve years old, the monastery was hit by a plague and wiped out the majority of the monks, but left a young boy and Abbot Ceolfrith. It is thought the young boy was Bede. At Jarrow, under the guidance of Abbot Ceolfrith, Bede was ordained a priest at the age of nineteen, an office usually reserved for those aged twenty five or over.

Bede produced two major histories of his age and has thereby become known as "the father of English history". These works were 'The History of the Abbots of Wearmouth and Jarrow' and is an important source of ecclesiastical history, but perhaps his most popular work has been 'The Ecclesiastical History of the English People'. This work is our primary source for understanding the beginnings of the English people and the coming of Christianity. This is the first work of history in which the AD dating system is used. Bede dedicated his life to his literary work and states in the last chapter of "Ecclesiastical History of the English People", that "concerning the history of Britain..... I have with the Lord's help, composed so far as I could gather it from ancient documents or from the traditions of the elders, or from my own knowledge." Unlike many historians he did not seek to score points against those of whom he wrote and so the



THE VENERABLE BEDE

content of his works remains truthful. In numerous ways, but especially in his moderation, gentleness, and breadth of view, Bede stands out from his contemporaries. Probably his influence would have been greater if not for the devastation inflicted upon the monasteries by the Vikings less than a century after his death.

His scholastic range was wide. His commentaries on books of the Bible were widely sought after. Bishop Boniface wrote of Bede that he "shone forth as a lantern in the church by his scriptural commentary." Bede also wrote of nature, he knew the earth was round and that the moon influenced the tides. He was also a poet and wrote poems in both old English and Latin. All told, he wrote some sixty books.

During Easter, 735 Bede became seriously ill. Cuthbert, a deacon and later the Abbot of Wearmouth and Jarrow,

wrote a description of Bede's last days. He stated that Bede continued teaching his pupils and joked with them to hurry as he might not be there much longer. It was on the 26th May that he finally came to rest. He was dictating a translation of the Gospel of Saint John to a young boy Wilbert, who was writing it down. Wilbert spoke to Bede, telling him there was one

more sentence to translate. After doing so, Bede lay upon the floor and sang "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit", and when he named the Holy Spirit he breathed his last breath. (Taken from a letter on his death bed by Cuthbert).

Bede became known as 'Venerable Bede' soon after his death, and his Sainthood was recognised fifty years after his death. He was declared Doctor of the Church on 13 November 1899 by Pope Leo XIII. Bede the Venerable was buried at the monastery of St Paul at Jarrow and in 1022 his remains were moved to Durham Cathedral. A sculptured quotation from one of Bede's prayers hangs on the east wall of his tomb:

*"Christ the Morning Star
Who when the night
Of this world is past
Brings to his saints
The promise of
The light of life
And opens everlasting day".*

General Chapter 2006

Every six years, the Order convenes an assembly of Brothers and lay staff from every province around the world. At this general chapter, the Brothers review the state of the Order and its developments to ensure that globally it remains in keeping with Saint John of God's vision and the needs of the 21st century. The chapter establishes broad objectives for the next six years and elects a new Prior General and General Government.

The next chapter will take place in Rome, this October under the title 'PASSION FOR THE HOSPITALITY OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD IN THE WORLD TODAY' Brother John Martin, Provincial, and two elected Brothers, Brother Robert Moore and Brother Stanislaus Neild, will represent the province.



General Chapter 2006

As part of the preparation for the general chapter, Brother John Martin attended a meeting of Provincials and representatives of the Order's services in Europe. Brother John was accompanied by Assistant Chief Executives, Anne Rowlands and Mike Parr, as lay representatives of the Order in our Province.



An account from Anne Rowlands of the visit:

Together with Mike Parr, Brother Stanislaus Neild and Br John Martin, I spent the first week of April in Warsaw attending the European regional conference of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God. I have to admit to being a little apprehensive

about the trip on two counts: firstly as a relatively new member of staff it was my first experience of the Order on the international scene at a major conference, and secondly it was my first trip to Poland. I was reassured on both counts. The conference was very diverse and interesting, and gave me the opportunity to see what the Order does across Europe and other parts of the world. It also gave me the opportunity to meet my counterparts in other countries and exchange views and experiences with them, and to practice my Spanish conversing with the delegates from the Spanish provinces!!

It struck me that there are great similarities within the Order across Europe - the same ethos pervades all and there is a willingness to help all those in need. There are also great differences in the range and diversity of services which the Order provides. The conference itself was in preparation for the general chapter which will be held in Rome in October for which the theme is "The Passion for Saint John of God in the World Today".

The sessions were varied and interesting and covered the life of the Brothers, the Order's mission and the relationship between Brothers and co workers, and the work of the Order internationally. The most interesting theme for me was a session on bioethics, which was presented in a most sensitive and informative way.

The hospitality provided by the Polish Brothers was excellent and the organisation first class. This was despite the fact that the conference centre had suffered a fire the day before the start which made a number of rooms unusable. This led to a number of delegates (subsequently dubbed the martyrs!) being housed in the provincial house in Warsaw a thirty minute drive from the centre.



I met some wonderful people and would never have thought twelve months ago that I would have spent an evening dancing with Spanish, English and Irish Brothers in Poland! I am grateful for having had the opportunity to attend and experience an interesting, enlightening and enjoyable conference.

Good Wishes to the Prior General

Our good wishes and prayers are extended to our Prior General, Brother Pascual Piles on his feast day on 17th May 2006. Brother Pascual has served the Order as Prior General for almost 12 years following his election at the 1994 General Chapter in Bogota and re-election in 2000 in Granada.



Saint John of God Care

SCO

THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE POST HAS BEEN TO RESEARCH UNMET NEEDS, ASCERTAIN POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE ORDER WITHIN SCOTLAND.



Accommodation for Supported Living Services

With the successful resettlement of the residents of St. Mary's and its consequent closure in April 2004, establishing the Supported Living

Service became the main focus of the staff team. Staff invested a considerable amount of their own time, energy and emotion during the transitional period to ensure that the ladies were, and continue to be, the main focus whilst shaping this new service, and for which they are to be commended. Following this hard work, we have a high quality service which provides individually tailored support packages that enable people with special care needs to live in their own home. The Supported Living Service in East Renfrewshire currently supports adults with physical and learning disabilities.

Over the past few months we have met with several bishops, care providers, a local commissioning officer and the Chair and National Co-ordinator for the National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care. This has proved extremely beneficial and informative as to outlining care provision and the political situation in Scotland.



Services

GLASGOW DEVELOPMENT - THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

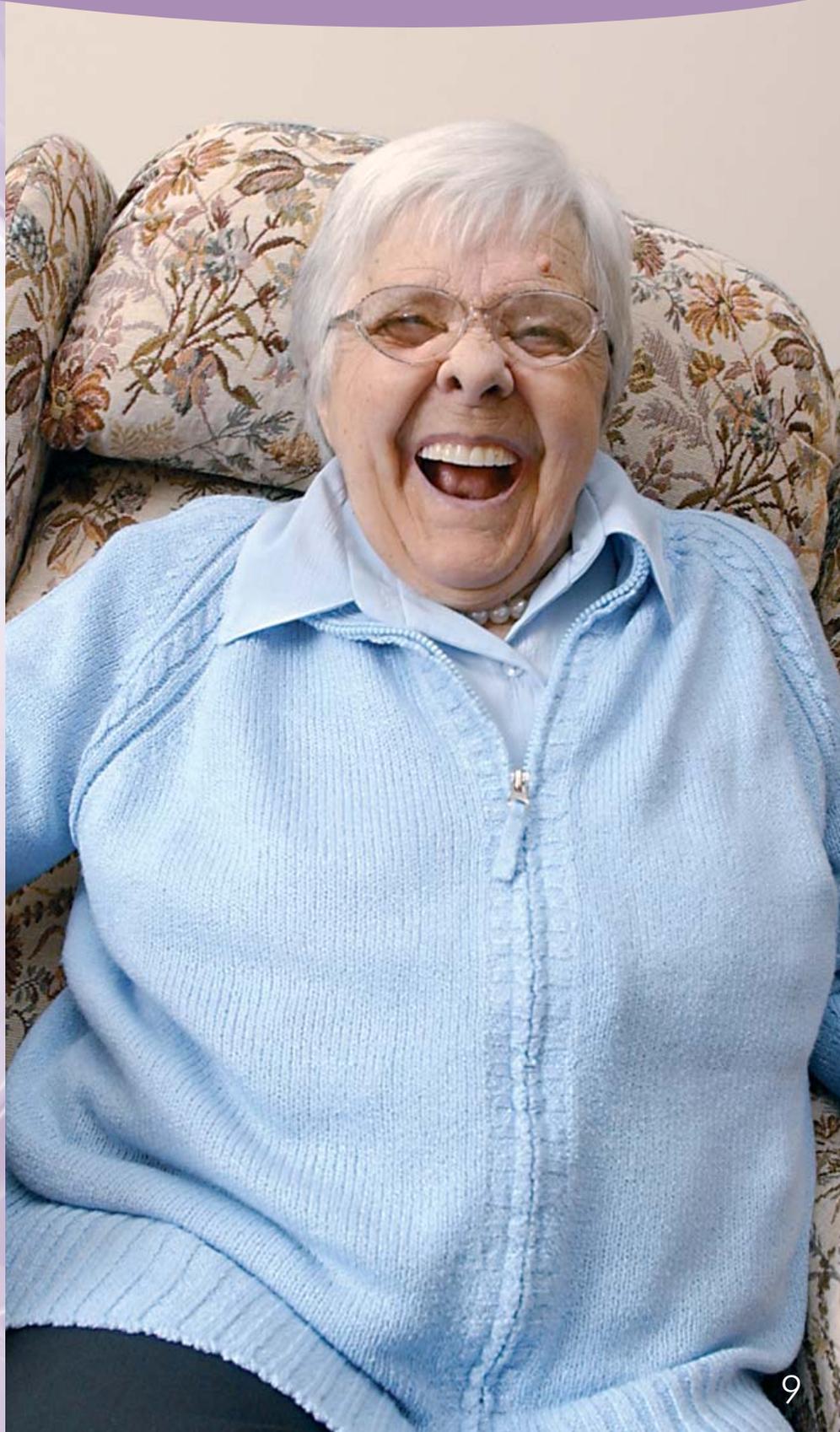
SO WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Much work is on-going in researching and identifying needs. We are currently looking at care of the elderly and accommodation for twenty people with learning disabilities in East Renfrewshire. We now have to submit our specification of how we would provide this service, along with numerous other care providers, to tender for this work. Meetings with local councillors and Local Authority strategists are planned for the near future. An application is being made to be approved providers in neighbouring authorities.

Work to raise the profile of the Charity is underway. We have placed advertisements in several Scottish publications and there has been a distribution of leaflets in the Paisley Diocese. We recently represented the Charity by having a stand at 'The Gathering', which is a three-day event organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

As with all things this is the plan for today, tomorrow could bring other opportunities. So long as we continue to be faithful and responsive 'to meet the unmet need', anything is possible.

Geraldine Garry
Project Manager, Scotland



Saint John of God Care

NEW TRUSTEES SOUGHT

FOR SAINT JOHN OF GOD CARE SERVICES

Saint John of God Care Services is looking for two new trustees who can support and stretch the delivery of their services, and who can support and challenge the strategic development of the charity.

Currently there are four trustees, all of whom are Brothers of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God. Extending this to include two lay trustees will bring a greater breadth of knowledge and expertise to the team. This is an exciting opportunity for two people to bring their experience and special expertise to make a difference in this unique charity.

WHAT SORT OF PERSON ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Someone who will:

- make a commitment to the organisation and its core values of trust, respect, hospitality, compassion and justice
- * be willing to devote the necessary time and effort
- have strategic vision and good, independent judgement
- have the ability to think creatively and willingness to speak their mind
- have an understanding and acceptance of legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship

WHAT WILL THE ROLE INVOLVE?

It will involve actively contributing to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation and setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets. This will require a 10-12 day commitment annually, and attending bi-monthly meetings in Darlington.

Saint John of God Care Services continues to expand and develop its services. We are looking forward to having new people on board on our journey forward.

These posts were advertised nationally at the end of May 2006. If you would like further information, please contact Amber Horrox: on **01325 373702** or email amberhorrox@sjogcareservices.org.uk

DEVELOPMENTS AT BRYN MAIR

Bryn Mair is a small nursing home for Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, near Holywell in Flintshire.

The convent was built in 1968 and is now home for Sisters in need of nursing and care. The building is no longer suitable for the Sisters as their health care needs change and therefore it is currently undergoing a major renovation. Work started last September to provide 15 en-suite rooms, a new kitchen and an extension to the dining room and lounge. The work is expected to be completed by late summer.

Congratulations to Sister Theresa Mary of the Bryn Mair community, she had a double celebration this May: her 100th birthday on 2nd May and the 80th anniversary of her religious profession.



Bryn Mair's new lounge



Sister Theresa Mary



Sister Patrick in the new kitchen

RESIDENT'S ARTWORK DISPLAYED IN SAINT BEDE'S HOUSE

The artwork of Nathan Middlemass-Dry, a resident from Saint John of God Care Services Supported Living Service is the focus of attention for staff and visitors to Saint Bede's House at Morton Park, Darlington. Nathan is showing off his creative skills with a selection of his pictures that are on display throughout the building. On Tuesday 2 May, Nathan visited staff who work at Saint Bede's House to place his pictures for all to enjoy.

Nathan has lived in the Charity's Supported Living Service since the service began three years ago. The service enables Nathan to live as independently as possible as a tenant within one of the Charity's three houses in Scorton, North Yorkshire which supports thirteen people in total who have special care needs. Nathan attends local day-centres and college during the week where he pursues his love of art and crafts.

Staff at Saint Bede's House provide administrative support for the 45 Saint John of God Care Services throughout Great Britain. These services provide health, social and pastoral support for than 1000 people.

Photo shows: Nathan, (right) with Brother John Martin, OH Provincial of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God and Chief Executive of Saint John of God Care Services





The Medaille Trust



'But the children of God are not deterred; they walk with others as God has walked with them, even amid

"The 23-year-old eastern European woman had come to London on the promise of 'a good' job in a hotel and an income she could send back to her impoverished grandparents. Instead, in circumstances typical for many trafficked women, she was locked in a basement and told that her family back home would be killed unless she worked as a prostitute, receiving up to 40 clients a day. This woman had to earn her captors £300 a day to pay off the 'debt' of £20,000 she had allegedly incurred in the journey to Britain. She was charged for use of knives and forks and for the one meal a day she was fed. She was subjected to a fine if she refused to have anal or unprotected sex or if a client did not find her attractive. The gang who brought her and up to 600 women into the United Kingdom, consisted of Tamara Dulghieru, her husband Gavril Dulghieru, and Oleh Matyushin from Belarus. They held women in brothels in Mayfair and Soho working 20-hour shifts. In 2003 the 26 year old Albanian, Luan Plakici was jailed for 10 years after trafficking more than 60 women from Moldova and Romania to work in brothels around the country. They had regularly been gang raped. They were beaten to prevent them from escaping."

Yvonne Roberts

Inhuman Bondage - the Tablet



The Catholic Church is determined to alleviate the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of women, young men and children enslaved in the sex trafficking industry throughout the world. A meeting for Religious was held in the south of England at the invitation of Sister Ann Teresa, a Religious, who for a number of years had been working

with women involved in street based prostitution. More than forty religious congregations attended. From that meeting a 'working party' came into being.

On hearing of this Gospel initiative the Hospitaller Brothers became involved. This was of course inevitable, remembering the Toledo journey of St John of God through which he attempted to free a number of women from the slavery of prostitution, by providing all they needed to escape the brothels of Granada.

Saint John of God Care Services working collaboratively with the 'working party' has established a new charity/company limited by guarantee: The Medaille Trust. At this moment three properties belonging to various religious congregations of women are being leased to this new charity. They are the first of many and they are situated necessarily in different parts of the country. These properties will become safe houses offering holistic care for those who have been freed by the

Even in the developed countries, millions of people making up the so-called 'fourth world' are excluded from social benefits by the economic and social forces: these are the men, women and children living in poverty and misery who 'not only live under conditions of very serious physical and psychological discomfort but have also lost their rights as subjects of law, because they are not guaranteed by any legal or social protection'. The most evident examples of these are those who lose their jobs, young people without any employment prospects, street children exploited and left to their own devices and fate, old people living alone and without any social protection, former prisoners, drug victims, AIDS sufferers, immigrants in general and particularly the illegal ones ..all of those who are condemned to live a life of dire poverty, social marginalisation and cultural precariousness.

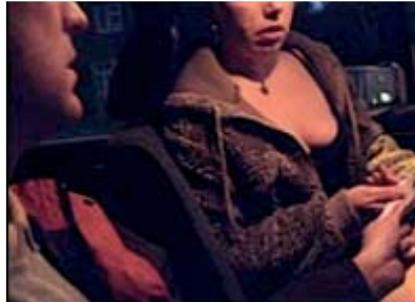
Charter of Hospitality: Brother Pascual Piles OH



police from the slavery of sex trafficking in this country. Saint John of God Care Services has taken responsibility for the recruitment, training and management of staff, the care standards and maintenance of the properties.

Two of the three houses will open in August of this year. Though both male and female religious congregations have been exceptionally generous financially, The Medaille Trust is struggling.

“...the first of many properties offering holistic care for those who have been freed by the police from the slavery of sex



It is estimated that the overall cost of each bed will be £30,000 per annum. The Charity is trying every avenue open to it to fund these houses so that they can be operated to Hospitaller standards. This is proving very difficult. The victims freed from this diabolical trade in vulnerable human beings have no 'status' in Britain; they are labelled as illegal immigrants and as such the Government, mindful of the 'tabloids', acts as if it has no responsibility towards them.

Please will you help us save them? If you would like to make a donation to this work, then please make your cheque payable to 'The Medaille Trust'

Send to:
The Medaille Trust
PO Box 119
Darlington
DL1 9BX



NEED MORE INFORMATION ON OUR SERVICES?

If you would like to know more about any of the services we offer, or for the most up to date information, you can visit www.sjogcareservices.org.uk

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE BROTHERS?

If you want to know more about the men behind the mission, or discover what Saint John of God did in his life time you can visit www.hospitaller.org.uk

Yanbian Hospice in China receives Certificate of Approval

The Order's Yanbian Hospice Hospital near the City of Yanji is the first hospice in China for cancer patients for whom no further treatment is possible or who are facing the last stage of life. It provides holistic care, including symptom control and psychological support. It is hoped that this will be a model for further hospice development in this part of China.

The hospice recently received its certificate of approval from the Chinese Authorities. This was marked by a ceremony which took place on 8 December 2005, the date of the feast of the Immaculate Conception but had been chosen by the authorities because in China, eight is considered to be a lucky number.

About eighty guests were present for the ceremony which was covered by television, radio and newspapers.



left to right: Brother Thadu, Brother Donatus, Brother Pio



Brother Pio Chang



After the speeches and a fireworks display, the Provincial, Brother Pio Chang and the Department of Health Bureau Chief, Ms. Kyung Ae KIM unveiled the name.

The Brothers moved into their residence located near the Yanbian Hospice before Christmas and have received their first patients into the hospice.

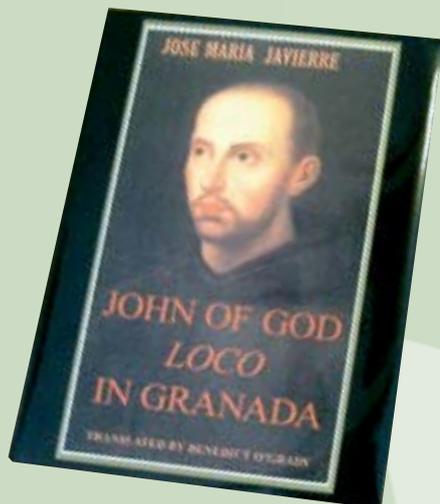


During Brother Pio's visit to Saint Bede's House



The Andover Food Bank Initiative

The Catholic parish of Andover is a very active and prayerful parish and yet for a long time many of its parishioners felt frustrated at its apparent reluctance to change its outlook and to meet new challenges. They became convinced that they had it too easy and were too comfortable with the status quo! Over and over again various quotes from 'the Mad Man of Granada' would appear in the newsletter, calling them to reflect on the breadth of God's mercy, and never cease doing good while they are able. A gentleman by the name of Pat Lavelle was particularly haunted by these words.



Loco in Granada, meaning Mad Man in Granada which depicts John of God's life story.

All through the weeks leading up to Christmas he prayed to the Holy Spirit for guidance. As a result of this, he found himself during the first week of January this year, sitting alone in the Citizens Advice Bureau. He was waiting to discuss an idea he had regarding debt counselling with the manager. As he waited, a young woman came in, quite upset. She had a baby in a pram and another toddler in tow. It was a cold grey wet day and Christmas seemed a long time ago. He could not avoid overhearing some of the conversation. When she turned to leave he followed her out. Pat introduced himself, and told her he was a Catholic. He asked if he could help her. Following a wan smile

her words came as a shock – "Yes please. I need food for my babies."

"I need food for my babies"

Before January was over the parish had started serious planning to bring a food bank to our town. This new project needed to involve as many parishioners as possible to accomplish the wide range of tasks needing to be done. Drove of parishioners, from every social background and nationality volunteered to become part of the 'team'. Every skill was required and every position filled. Men and women from all the local Christian communities were invited to work with them. The 'Working Party' held briefings for health

visitors, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Social Security staff, the National Probation Service, Borough Council staff and councillors, local Clergy, the Crisis Centre and managers from our homeless hostels - anyone who we felt was likely to encounter people in crisis.

The purpose of the food bank is to provide a 3-day supply of food to those in crisis. If necessary practical support free at the point of need will be offered until the professional services can take over. The food – packed into special boxes labelled 'ANDOVER FOOD BANK' - a work of the Catholic Parish of Saint John the Baptist' is collected from parishioners each week and from regular queuing at the doors of the large supermarkets in town.

Reflecting on Saint John of God's response to Christ standing before him in various guises has taught much to those who work closely with the food bank. The statue of this 'Father of the Poor' mounted on the front wall of the warehouse reminds them of why they began this work and why they continue!

