

hospitaller

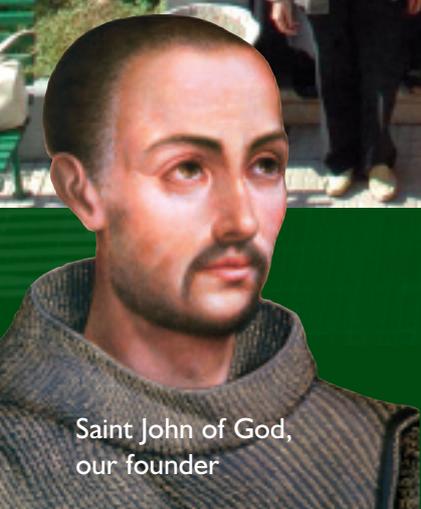
Issue 19 • April 2007



Hospitaller Order of
Saint John of God Charitable Trust



Brothers and co-workers at the
General Chapter in Rome



Saint John of God,
our founder

-  The LXVI General Chapter
-  XIX Provincial Chapter
-  The Medaille Trust
-  The Saint John of God Migrant Worker Project

Foreword

'SOMETIMES IT FALLS ON A GENERATION TO BE GREAT.
YOU CAN BE THAT GREAT GENERATION.
LET YOUR GREATNESS BLOSSOM.
LIVE SIMPLY, SUSTAINABLY AND IN SOLIDARITY.'

Cafod Lenten Campaign

I paid an early morning visit to a Catholic church near the Bishop's Conference Centre in Victoria, London, where I was to attend an important meeting to further the mission of our beloved Hospitaller Order.

Kneeling, my prayer began by asking the Lord to give me the wisdom and all the grace I need to fulfil my fourth term as Provincial. During the quiet time I spent before the Blessed Sacrament, I remembered in prayer all the members of the Saint John of God Family of the Province of the Venerable Bede: the men and women using our Hospitaller services, the co-workers and the Brothers.

Many thoughts came into my mind: how to move forward with regard to the creation of the new Anglo-Irish Province; the faithfulness and generosity of the Brothers who have all agreed to move to new communities, in new locations, to develop key ministries within the Hospitaller Order's 'Saint John of God Care Services.' Further thoughts came to me about the many ageing religious congregations, both in Britain and the Republic of Ireland, seeking our expertise to enable them to continue to support those for whom they have responsibility.

I put my head into my hands and began thinking of the major works of mercy we are beginning: the homes we are opening for the Medaille Trust, so that they can offer young children, who have been freed from the sex-trafficking industry the care they need; the Saint John of God Migrant Worker service in the heart of London, supporting newly arrived Eastern European migrants to become 'work ready' in an attempt to prevent them falling into destitution.

Looking through my fingers towards a statue of the Sacred Heart, I felt reassured as I entrusted all these people, projects and the finances we are going to need to achieve all this, to the heart of Jesus, a devotion that has always had a special place within the spiritual life of the Brothers of the Order.

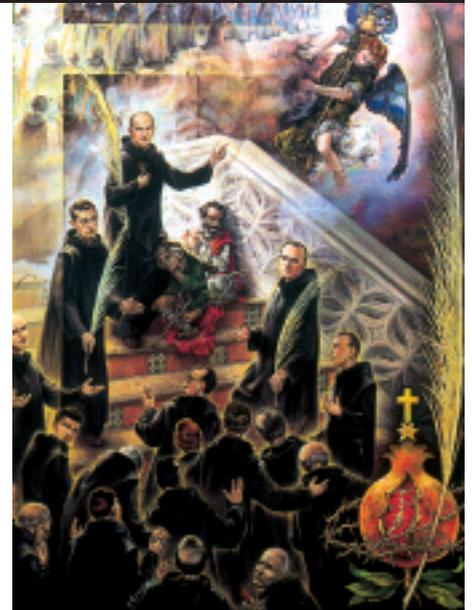
Moving from the kneeling position to the more comfortable one of sitting, I looked to my right and on the wall was a poster containing the following words: 'Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great

generation. Let your greatness blossom. Live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity.' Wow! I thought, in a certain sense these words encapsulate the closing address of Brother Donatus, our Prior General to the Provincial Chapter.

I read those words over and over again and I said to myself: 'That's just it.' All of us are being called to do something great for God and for the world.' In fact, that is precisely what we the Saint John of God Family are doing... through God's grace.

I turned my head back to the Sanctuary reflecting upon the fact that Saint John of God was one of the "greats." Saint John Grande OH was also in that league as was Saint Benedict Menni OH, Saint Richard Pampuri OH. Then I thought of the Beati and Venerables such as Brother Antón Martin OH, Brother Francis Camacho OH and Brother Eustachius Kugler OH. Being mindful of Blessed José Valdes OH from Cuba, I couldn't help but remember the Brothers martyred in Belgium, Poland, Columbia, Chile, Brazil, and Philippines and especially in Spain where during the Civil War of 1936, ninety-eight Brothers were martyred because of their faithfulness to Hospitaller values. The process of beatification was successfully terminated for seventy-one of these Brothers. Pope John Paul II set October 25th 1992 as the date of their solemn beatification in the Vatican.

Then I began to think of the 'greats' closer to home, the un-canonised saints, the ones many of us have known and know now. I am sure that each of us can think of men and women we have supported over the years who, despite enormous physical, behavioural or psychological difficulties, have brought or bring out the very best in us. It would not be difficult to bring to mind one of the many co-workers, (our collaborators in the Hospitaller Mission) who were or are utterly faithful to those in their care or worked unstintingly behind the scenes in our 'institutions' or work now in our new supported living services or administrative centres. It would be easy to name Brothers of this Province, who quietly (or noisily) did or do their best to express the gentleness and love of Jesus the 'Good Samaritan.'



It is upon this legacy that we move forward into the next mandate. Let us be great... for God and those whom we accompany!

I brought my visit to a close with the words of Saint John of God on my lips: 'I wish to... go [now] in search of a way to serve our Lord... I therefore put my trust in my Lord Jesus Christ that he may give me the grace to carry out this desire.'

I suggest there is no better way to begin the next three years.

Let us pray for each other..

Brother John Martin, OH
Provincial



The LXVI General Chapter of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

ROME FROM 2ND TO 22ND OCTOBER 2006

The Chapter, with the title 'Passion for the Hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today' was held in Rome from 2nd to 22nd October 2006. Eighty-two Brothers and twenty-two co-workers from all of the Provinces of the Order throughout the world attended.

One of the key functions of the General Chapter is to elect the Prior General of the Order and the six General Councillors.

On Saturday 14th October, The Most Reverend Brother Donatus Forkan, OH, was elected Prior General.

At the request of the General Government a group of lay co-workers were invited to attend the General Chapter and to provide some indications as a contribution for the discernment by the Brothers for the election of the new Superior General and his Council.

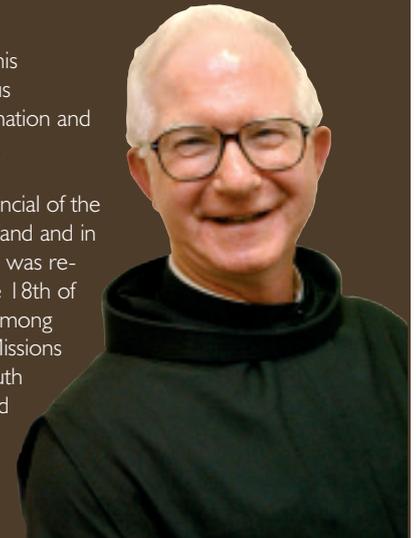
This was the first time that so many lay co-workers have attended a General Chapter. And indeed the issue of relations between lay co-workers and the Brothers has perhaps been the topic most debated there. This was noted as an irreversible cultural change which will certainly leave its mark on the future of the Order.

Brother Donatus Forkan (William, Baptismal name) was born on 5th April 1942 in Swinford, County Mayo, Ireland. (Diocese of Achonry). He has three brothers and one sister. He entered the Juniorate in 1957 and made his First Profession on 8th September 1960 and Solemn Profession on the 28th August 1966.

Brother Donatus is a qualified nurse and is a graduate of the Order's International College in Rome. He also completed studies at the Franciscan College, Seoul, Republic of Korea and the Holy Ghost Missionary College, Kimmage Manor, Dublin, Ireland.

Brother Donatus lived twenty one years of his Hospitaller Vocation in Korea and had various responsibilities in Vocations Promotion, Formation and was Provincial Delegate from 1989 to 1992.

In 1992, Brother Donatus was elected Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, Ireland and in 1994 was elected a General Councillor. He was re-elected as the 1st General Councillor on the 18th of November 2000 and served for six years. Among his responsibilities was coordination of the Missions of the order. He chaired the Hospitaller Youth Conference (Granada, November 2005) and the 2006 General Chapter Preparatory Committee.



Six General Councillors were elected as follows:

1st Councillor: Br. Rudolf KNOPP Born at Kahl (Germany), 18th January 1958. Temporary profession 15th August 1981 and solemn profession 12th October 1986. Provincial of the Bavarian Province since 2001.

2nd Councillor: Br. Jesús ETAYO ARRONDO, priest. Born at Fustiñana - Pamplona (Spain) 26th May 1958. Temporary profession 29th September 1977 and solemn profession 12th October 1983. Ordained priest 21st September 1985. First Councillor of the Aragon Province.

3rd Councillor: Br. Vincent KOCHAMKUNNEL. Born at Mattakkara (India) 30th January 1959. Temporary profession 2nd February 1978 and solemn profession 25th August 1985. Elected General Councillor 18th November 2000 at the General Chapter held in Granada (Spain).

4th Councillor: Br. Elia TRIPALDI, priest. Born at Uggiano Montefusco - Taranto (Italy) 4th May 1939. Temporary profession 13th October 1957 and solemn profession 13th October 1963. Ordained priest 19th December 1970. Superior at Palermo.

5th Councillor: Br. Robert CHAKANA. Born at Lubwe (Zambia) 20th April 1960. Temporary profession 15th August 1992 and solemn profession 11th April 1999. First Councillor of the African Province Our Lady of Mercy.

6th Councillor: Br. Daniel Alberto MÁRQUEZ BOCANEGRA. Born at Bogotá (Colombia) 28th November 1960. Temporary profession 1st July 1984 and solemn profession 8th March 1991. Provincial of the Province of Mexico and Central America since 2001.

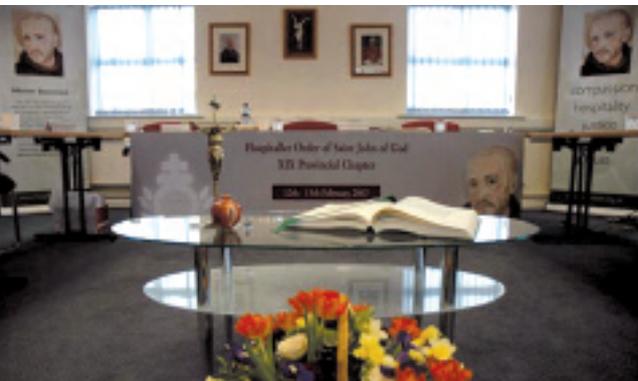


Left to right:
Br Robert Chakana
Br Daniel Márquez Bocanegra
Br Rudolph Knopp
Br Donatus Forkan
Br Elia Tripaldi
Br Jesús Etayo Arrondo
Br Vincent Kochamkunnel

Provincial Chapter



Brother John Martin (left) and Father Des Connolly SMM



Chapter Room



Geoff Randall and Brother Michael Newman



Evening Prayer in the chapel on Tiber Island, Rome during the General Chapter.

Calendar of Provincial Chapters

	February 12th-15th	English Province
	February 20th-24th	Indian Province
	February 27th-3rd March	Vietnamese Province
	March 12th-16th	Australasian Province
	March 19-23rd	Korean Province
	March 27th-31st	Roman Province
	April 11th-15th	Lombardy-Veneto Province
	April 17th-21st	Aragonese Province
	April 30th	Rhineland Delegation
	May 1st-6th	Bavarian Province
	May 8th-12th	Austrian Province
	May 14th-16th	Bohemia-Moravian Province
	May 21st-25th	Castillian Province
	May 28th-1st June	French Province
	June 4th-8th	Irish Province
	June 11th-15th	Portuguese Province
	June 19th-23rd	Southern South American Province
	June 27th-1st July	Northern South American Province
	July 5th-9th	Colombian Province
	July 12th-16th	Mexican Province
	July 19th-21st	General Delegation of Canada
	July 24th-28th	United States of America Province
	July 31st-4th August	Polish Province
	August 6th-8th	General Delegation of Silesia
	August 13th-17th	General Delegation of Saint Benedict Menni, Africa
	August 21st-25th	General Delegation of Saint Richard Pampuri, Africa
	August 27th-31st	Our Lady of Mercy Province, Africa



XIX Provincial Chapter: 12th - 15th February 2007

A Passion for the Hospitality of Saint John of God in the world today. Going that extra mile together

The 19th Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Venerable Bede took place between 12th and 15th February 2007. A Provincial Chapter is a period when the Brothers of the Province take time to reflect on the past, present and future of the Order and the Province. The Chapter also hosts the election of the Provincial Government. This is the group of Brothers who are given the responsibility of managing the affairs of the Province. The Provincial Government consists of the Provincial and his three councillors.

The elections took place on 14th February and the results were as follows:

Provincial (for a fourth term): Br. John Martin, OH

1st Provincial Councillor: Br. Robert Moore, OH

2nd Provincial Councillor: Br. John of God O'Neill, OH

3rd Provincial Councillor: Br. Stanislaus Neild, OH



*Left to right:
Br. John of God O'Neill
Br. John Martin
Br. Stanislaus Neild
Br. Robert Moore*

LOCAL COMMUNITY APPOINTMENTS:

1. Montemor o-Novo, Provincial House, Darlington
Br. John Martin - Provincial
2. St. John of God Community, Darlington
Br. Robert Moore - Prior
Br. Michael Newman
Br. Bonaventure Garrard
3. St. Augustine's, Darlington
Br. Michael Francis - Parish Administrator
4. St. Raphael's, Welwyn Garden City
Br. John of God O'Neill - Prior
Br. Des Connolly
5. Genil, Halifax
Br. Stanislaus Neild - Superior
Br. Mark Morgan
6. St. John of God Hospital, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin
Br. Ignatius Halloran
Br. Bartholomew Battigan
7. Iona Community, Belfast
Br. John Stretton

The following appointments were also made:

**Prior of Saint Raphael's Community,
Welwyn Garden City**
Br. John of God O'Neill

Prior of Saint John of God Community, Darlington
Br. Robert Moore

Local Superior of Genil Community, Halifax
Br. Stanislaus Neild

Provincial Secretary
Br. Robert Moore

Provincial Bursar
Br. Stanislaus Neild

Principal of the School of Hospitality
Br. Robert Moore

Provincial Chapter

During the Chapter a number of key issues were considered by the Brothers from which the following resolutions were formulated:

1 CREATION OF A NEW PROVINCE

The Province of the Venerable Bede is to enter into a process with the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Ireland), which will see the suppression of both Provinces before the Provincial Chapters of 2010, and the creation of a new Province that will incorporate the Provinces of the Venerable Bede and the Immaculate Conception. The Provincial teams of the English and Irish Provinces will establish a common programme of goals to be achieved and common issues to be resolved that will facilitate the creation of this new Province.

The reasons for this development are to enable the continuation and development of Saint John of God's mission in both countries in the face of a declining number of Brothers in active ministry. It is a development that will, as Brother Fintan, the Irish Provincial has said, enable us to hold to those things we treasure and value. The two Provinces have many things in common, and indeed share a common history of Hospitality, since it is the Irish Province that gave birth to the English Province in 1953. Provincial Chapters of both Provinces have found it increasingly difficult to fulfil canonical requirements in filling the various offices from an ever-decreasing number of fit and able Brothers. The pooling of our resources will provide a fresh impetus to the work of both Provinces and the exchange between Brothers and co-workers will be enriching and exciting.

2 The recommendations made by the co-workers, Brothers and Capitulars of the Chapters on the 13th February 2007 will be carried forward by assigning the tasks to the relevant Intentional Communities.

3 The Provincial Definitory will respond to the proposals given at the Open Space day held in January 2007 and the meeting of the co-workers and Brothers on 23rd February 2007, within the next six months, ie by 31st August 2007.

4 The reports of the Provincial Bursar, the Scholastic Master and the Vocations Director presented to the Chapter are to be fully endorsed and actions taken within the next three years.

5 Intentional Communities

The Provincial Chapter approved the proposal to establish three Intentional Communities. Each of these Communities will have the intention of taking on the responsibility to further specific objectives directly related to the Services in the Province. There will be a Community of Brothers in each of the three Service Regions of the Province:

HOSPITALITY AND INDUCTION

The Brothers in the Saint John of God Community, Darlington will have responsibility for furthering the objectives of the School of Hospitality and will spearhead the initial induction programme and its development.

PASTORAL CARE

The Brothers in the Genil Community, Halifax will take responsibility for developing an understanding of pastoral care in all our Services and establish a strategy for its practical application.

NEW WORK OF HOSPITALITY AND VOCATION MINISTRY

The Brothers in the Saint John of God Community, Welwyn Garden City will be identified with a new project to meet the needs of migrant workers in central London. This project will provide opportunities for men interested in joining the Hospitaller Order to have hands-on experience with people who are deprived of the basic rights to a dignified living. It is proposed to relocate the Welwyn Garden City Community into central London within a property identified for the project. The Community will also have responsibility for vocation and formation ministry.

Each of these three Communities will establish a strategy for its particular ministry, which will include a number of our co-workers to form a team ministry.



History of the Irish Province

The first Hospitaller Brothers arrived from France to Kilsheelan, Co Tipperary in Ireland in 1877. The first service, St Patrick's House for 'invalids and convalescent gentlemen,' opened in 1878 in Sandymount, Co Dublin. Four years later in 1882, Saint John of God Hospital opened. This hospital still exists today and is renowned in Ireland for excellence in acute psychiatric care and teaching, with 210 beds, out-patient and day hospital services. In 1925 the hospital became a nursing school. In 1930 the Irish and English Delegation was established; three years later to be raised as a Province. Twenty years later in 1950, it was proposed that the

Irish-English Province should be divided into two separate Provinces.

Over the next few decades the Irish Brothers established over twenty services, not only in Ireland but in Australia, New Jersey and in South Korea. Today these latter three are managed independently through their respective Provinces/Delegations.

In 1993 psychiatric services were founded in Mzuzu, Malawi in Africa funded by successful fundraising in Ireland. In 1999 the first service opened in Northern Ireland – Belfast.

Provincial Chapter

OTHER APPOINTMENTS AND ACTIONS

Regional Management Teams

A Brother (or Brothers) from each Community will represent the Community on the Regional Management Teams.

Northern Region: Br. Michael Newman and Br. Bonaventure Garrard

Central Region: Br. Stanislaus Neild and Br. Mark Morgan

Southern Region: Br. John O'Neill and Br. Des Connolly

Saint John of God Management Services: Br. Robert Moore

Saint John of God Management Services

The Project Manager of Saint John of God Management Services, Sara Hopkins, will become part of the Operational Management Team.

The School of Hospitality

The School of Hospitality Team will be:

The Principal of the School - Br Robert Moore

The Assistant Chief Executive (Operational) - Anne Rowlands

The Regional Managers - Pat Cowley, Sharon Mafham, Julie Seehuber

The Manager of Saint John of God Management Services - Sara Hopkins

Members of the Intentional Community in Darlington - Br. Robert Moore, Br. Michael Newman, Br. Bonaventure Garrard

The Ethics Forum

The Ethics Forum will include:

Br. Stanislaus Neild - Chair

Elaine Hill

Other members to be appointed



Brother Jesus and Brother Rudolf – General Councillors



"The Good Samaritan" – model of Hospitality

Sculpture Unveiled



In preparation for the 19th Provincial Chapter, much paperwork was produced and many meetings were held. For those working at the Provincial Curia, the sight of Andrew Wilson, Property Services Manager, restoring a beloved statue of Saint John of God, which was housed for many years in the main corridor at Saint John of God Hospital Scorton, was most welcome. The statue reminds us at Saint Bede's house who we work for.



Felix O'Neill - at Day for Religious at Newcastle Cathedral - Little Sisters of the Poor. Also present at this day was Brother Ignatius Halloran and Brother Des Connolly SMM



Brother Bartholomew (right) and Brother Fidelis (Irish Province) spending time together celebrating many years of Hospitaller life.

Moving On



We would like to wish Br. Ignatius and Br. Bartholomew every blessing at they transfer from the Saint John of God Community in Darlington to the Saint John of God Community in Dublin. Our loss is their gain. Both Brothers will be missed very much. Profound thanks go to Br. Ignatius for his stewardship regarding the back catalogue of Hospitaller newsletters, which date back as early as 1947. They contribute tremendously to the archive material of our Order.

The Brothers and co-workers send their love and prayers to Br. John Stretton as he begins a challenging, yet rewarding, work in the North of Ireland as assistant manager at Dympha House, a 23-bed residential home. Once again, our loss is their gain, but we see this as the beginning to a new identity as a joint Province.

Provincial Chapter

During the Provincial Chapter, the opportunity was taken to acknowledge the Brothers and the tremendous work they do. Various members of the Saint John of God family presented small gifts to the Brothers as a token.



Brother Robert
"Thank you for all you do and all the support you give (on behalf of the Religious Communities)."

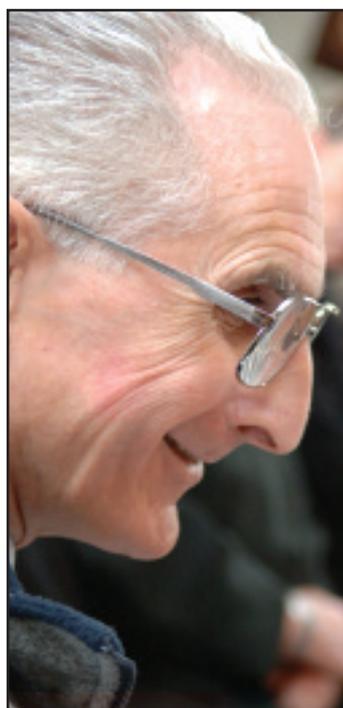
Brother John Stretton
"Passion, vigour and energy. Truly thankful for the work you've done for us at the Minims."
 Sylvester, the Minims

Brother Stan
"He's a wonderful man."
 Jessie Hannigan

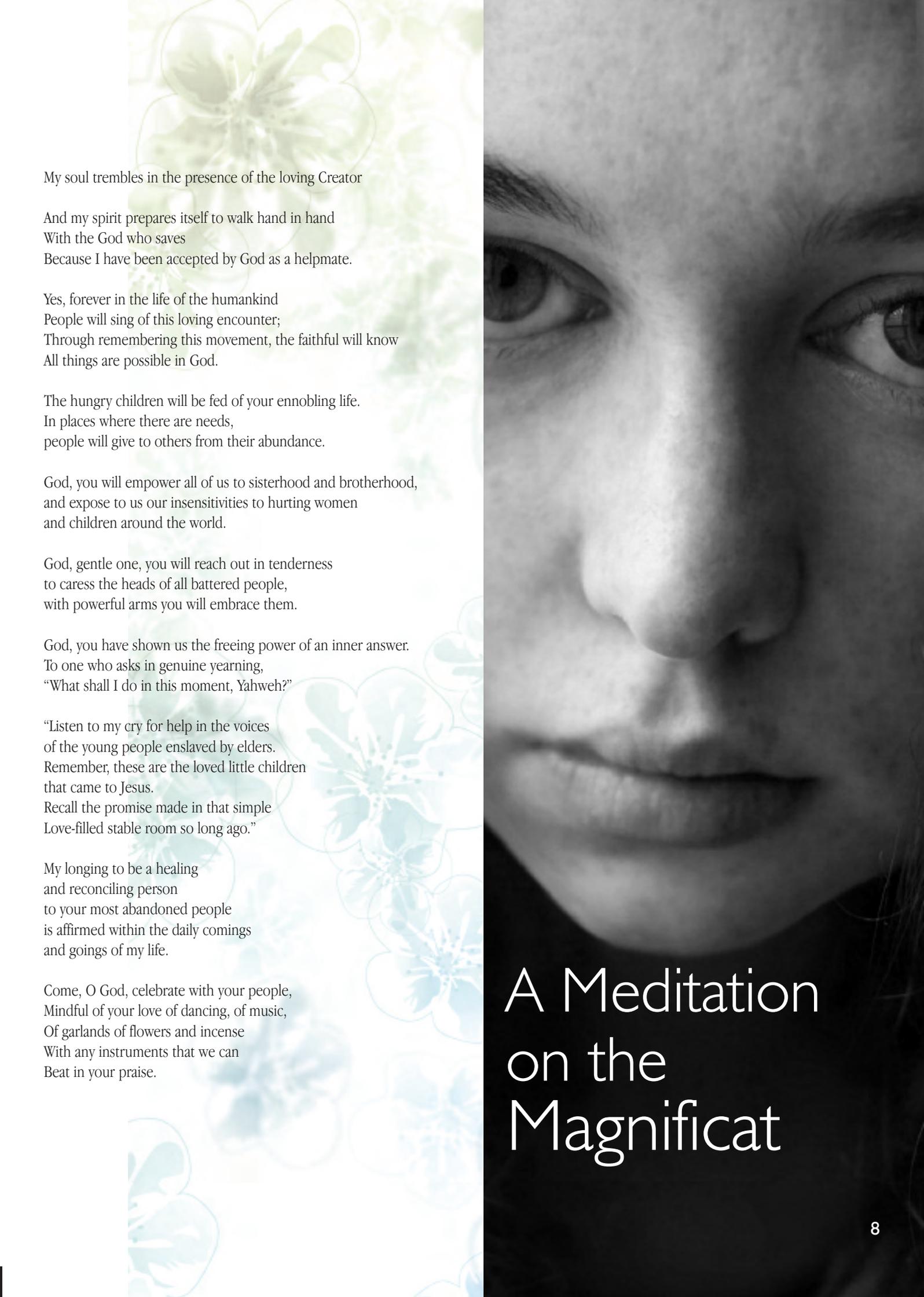
Brother Michael Francis
"An unsung hero."
 Malcolm Frank



Brother Bonaventure
"Always there, always jolly, even though he can't park his car in the drive."
 Steve Bridges on behalf of Philip Hayes (pictured),
 Saint John of God Respite Service



Brother John Martin
"Energetic. Inspired by Saint John of God, he has guided the Province through difficult waters."
 Prior General, Brother Donatus Forkan in recognition for the leadership he has given to the Province



My soul trembles in the presence of the loving Creator

And my spirit prepares itself to walk hand in hand
With the God who saves
Because I have been accepted by God as a helpmate.

Yes, forever in the life of the humankind
People will sing of this loving encounter;
Through remembering this movement, the faithful will know
All things are possible in God.

The hungry children will be fed of your ennobling life.
In places where there are needs,
people will give to others from their abundance.

God, you will empower all of us to sisterhood and brotherhood,
and expose to us our insensitivities to hurting women
and children around the world.

God, gentle one, you will reach out in tenderness
to caress the heads of all battered people,
with powerful arms you will embrace them.

God, you have shown us the freeing power of an inner answer.
To one who asks in genuine yearning,
“What shall I do in this moment, Yahweh?”

“Listen to my cry for help in the voices
of the young people enslaved by elders.
Remember, these are the loved little children
that came to Jesus.
Recall the promise made in that simple
Love-filled stable room so long ago.”

My longing to be a healing
and reconciling person
to your most abandoned people
is affirmed within the daily comings
and goings of my life.

Come, O God, celebrate with your people,
Mindful of your love of dancing, of music,
Of garlands of flowers and incense
With any instruments that we can
Beat in your praise.

A Meditation on the Magnificat

The Medaille Trust

Freedom Day - 25th March 2007 The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

Just a beginning!

Many men and women around Great Britain came together on Sunday 25th March to celebrate Freedom Day commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of slavery. We would be well to see this important celebration as an opportunity to renew our commitment to the Gospel inspired vision of William Wilberforce: a world where no man, woman or child is enslaved.

Abolition of Slavery

Unimaginable as it seems, slavery and bonded labour still persist today. Although the slave trade was officially banned in the early 1800s, the last 50 years have seen a resurgence of slavery due to changes in the world's economy and societies. Factors such as population growth (particularly in the developing world), rapid social and economic change, as well as corruption have all made their mark.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke: 1: 30-33

Slavery Then

Britain's slave trade is arguably one of the darkest periods in British history. Between 1776, the year of the declaration of American Independence, and 1807, it is estimated that Britain alone trafficked in over 1,000,000 human lives. Slaving boats would leave Britain for the West Coast of Africa where they would trade guns and other manufactured goods for African slaves. The African slaves would then be shipped across to the Americas where it is estimated 10-12 million slaves were sold onto the farms and plantations. Many never made it alive to America, as the conditions on board the slave ships were so appalling - over 2 million Africans died during these journeys, during which they were kept in cramped squalid conditions and treated worse than animals. Once in the Americas, they were worked to death. The goods they produced, much of it sugar, coffee and tobacco, were shipped back to the UK on the empty slave ships, bringing wealth and prosperity to the traders and the cities in which they lived, such as Liverpool and Bristol. The African slaves were de-humanised by the slave traders and the societies they belonged to. They were simply not viewed as an equal race to whites, and sadly these views inherent in slavery persist in society today.

Historic Facts

Between 1776 and 1807 it is estimated that Britain alone trafficked in over 1,000,000 human lives. The voyage of a slave ship across the Atlantic usually took about two months. Slaves were kept in appalling conditions under the deck with just 6ft x 1ft 4in for men, 5ft 10in x 1ft 4in for women and similarly cramped spaces for children. When slavery itself was finally abolished in 1833, over £20,000,000 had to be paid by the British Government in compensation to the slave owners.



Slavery Now

It is estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually, with 80% of victims being female. According to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking between countries generates an estimated £6.5 billion in annual revenue. It is closely connected with money laundering, drug trafficking, document forgery and human smuggling.

Buying a slave is cheaper than ever before. In 1850, an average slave in the American South cost the equivalent of £25,000. Today, a slave costs, on average, the equivalent of £60. And, because slaves are so cheap, they are disposable commodities, rather than people.

Current Facts

- Today, even at a conservative estimate, there are 27,000,000 slaves.
- This is far more than were seized from Africa in four centuries of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- An average slave in the American South in 1850 cost the equivalent of £25,000.
- Today a slave costs, on average, the equivalent of £60.
- From Himalayan villages to Eastern European cities, people - especially women and girls - are attracted by the prospect of a well-paid job as a domestic servant, waitress or factory worker.
- Traffickers recruit victims through fake advertisements, mail-order bride catalogues and casual acquaintances.
- Upon arrival at their destination, victims are placed in conditions controlled by traffickers while they are exploited to earn illicit revenues. Many are physically confined, their travel or identity documents are taken away and they or their families are threatened if they do not cooperate.
- Women and girls forced to work as prostitutes are blackmailed by the threat that traffickers will tell their families.
- Trafficked children are dependent on their traffickers for food, shelter and other basic necessities.
- Traffickers also play on victims' fears that authorities in a foreign country will prosecute or deport them if they ask for help.



'It is the nature of the soul to be in relationship, to be connected to all living creatures and to do whatever is in one's power to heal another's wounds of disconnection. Anyone who has suffered and embraced his/her wounds cannot knowingly inflict pain on another. Whereas evil, on the other hand, intends to disconnect and alienate - while relating to others as objects of exploitation and not as persons with dreams and aspirations that unfold in terms of the quality of care and respect they receive from others.'

Hospitality - The Promise

Child Sex Slaves

As can be seen from the shocking headline in the Independent on 25th February 2007, it is not only women and young men that are being sex-trafficked, but also children; children as young as five. Many are threatened with violence, then sold into the sex trade or forced to become domestic servants.

Children's charities in Britain say there has been a "dramatic" rise in referrals of trafficked children to sexual exploitation services.

The facts..

- An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year throughout the world.
- In the UK, according to government statistics an estimated 4,000 children and women were trafficked into prostitution in the UK in 2003.
- Hundreds more were trafficked here into domestic slavery, forced labour, agricultural work, food processing and construction.
- Over the past two years, cannabis factories run by Vietnamese gangs have spread from London. Trafficked children are being used to look after the houses.
- Gangs, especially those from Romania and Lithuania as well as Africa, are increasingly targeting Britain because markets in other European countries such as Spain and Italy are saturated.

Over the last five years, the face of trafficking in the UK has changed. The biggest noticeable difference is the wide range of African nationalities being trafficked. As well as Nigeria and other West African countries, such as Sierra

Leone, children are now trafficked from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Angola, Burundi, Malawi, South Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, China, Vietnam, India and Eastern Europe. In the majority of countries, recent or ongoing conflicts have resulted in children becoming vulnerable to traffickers. Trafficked children are subjected to various forms of abuse and exploitation to ensure control, psychological and physical threats are used.

It is not only children from abroad who are being trafficked. British children are also being trafficked from one city to another, facing the same fates as those from abroad.

Child trafficking is one of the worst violations of children's rights, believes Unicef. "There remains no specialised safe house for trafficked children or adequate care and support for victims," said Sarah Epstein of Unicef UK.

So what is the Saint John of God family doing to address this present evil?

At the end of 2005 we became associated with a working party of Religious who, under the inspirational leadership of Sr. Ann Teresa of the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy, were trying to provide safe housing to women, children, and young men who had been freed from the evil of sex trafficking.

Developing this 'dream' into a concrete reality was a major task and at times seemed fraught with all kinds of difficulties and dangers. Working collaboratively with all those who are part of the Medaille Trust and using the expertise of our managerial team: Ann Rowlands, Mike Parr, Barbara Cooper, the Medaille Trust is now providing women and their babies with safe accommodation and holistic care so that, regaining their dignity and inner strength, they will be able to move on to a brighter future. Through joint ventures of 'questing', we have secured the millions of pounds needed to staff and run the houses for three years and employ a project manager. Today this work, born of our desire to respond to the needs of some of the poorest and victimised people living within our country, is a Company Limited by Guarantee and has charitable status.



As you can imagine, the further we become involved with these issues, the further we become aware of the needs. As we go to print, Brother John Martin, our Provincial, has secured two more houses for the Medaille Trust. These houses will be used to provide a home for children freed from the evil of trafficking.

We have the houses, we do not have the funding for running these houses.

The name Jesus in Hebrew means "God saves", a name expressing both his identity and his mission.

PLEASE HELP - THERE IS A DONATION FORM IN THE LEAFLET ACCOMPANYING THIS NEWSLETTER.

We should all be very proud that the Medaille Trust, continuing, as it were, the work of Saint John of God among the women working within the brothels of Granada, is so closely associated with the Brothers of Saint John of God and that it was our involvement that has made it happen.

The
Medaille Trust

The Saint John of God Migrant Worker Service - LONDON



'The migrant worker service is a 'sister' work of The Medaille Trust, a charity offering safe housing to women, children and young men who have been freed from the sex-trafficking industry. The Brothers manage the safe houses of this charity. Men and women who fall upon hard times and are just trying to survive, become easy targets to those who prey on the vulnerable for financial gain. The 'Medaille Trust' cares for those whose spirits have been crushed through sexual abuse in the sex industry. Our migrant worker project is attempting to prevent young men and women becoming so desperate that they can be exploited in this way.' Brother John Martin OH

'The Christian community needs always to ask itself who is it excluding?'
Archbishop Rowan Williams

BACKGROUND

The Brothers of Saint John of God became involved with the issues affecting migrant workers from the eight accession countries (A8) who joined the EU on 1st May 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the two new accession countries (A2) that joined the EU on 1st January 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania), in response to an article that appeared in the Catholic Herald mid-September 2006. The paper ran a story highlighting the plight of hundreds of migrants from the Accession 8 countries who were attending the Passage Day for the Homeless, Carlisle Place, Victoria and the decision of the day centre (due to the impact of such numbers and their particular needs) to solely focus on their core client group; the long term homeless for whom the day centre was founded, offers specialist care and is funded to serve. This meant, in effect, the exclusion of migrant men and women from all the primary care services offered by the centre.

The Brothers, in wanting to meet this unmet need began an in-depth study of the problem. The team met with many homeless care agencies within the London area, members of the Catholic hierarchy who are concerned about the seriousness of this issue and a number of homeless migrants. The Brothers findings were disturbing to say the least.

Needless to say, the Passage Day Centre is not alone in its difficulties arising from the A8 and A2 migrant issue. Every homeless agency, relying on public funding, is forbidden by Government to use any of this funding or to second any of its publicly funded staff to support or help migrant workers in difficulty. Therefore, those migrants, who for whatever reason, seek help from such agencies, even for just a few days, will find the help being offered to them so limited that it is virtually nonexistent. With such little support, the move into homelessness within a few days of arriving in England is a real danger, even for young and able migrants. It is worth remembering that our indigenous homeless can access health care, various financial packages and care plans. Migrants from the A8 and A2 countries are denied access to any of this and in general their English language skills will be very poor.



Having completed their research, (which concurs with the concerns highlighted within the recent survey commissioned by the national homeless charity: Homeless Link) the Brothers have identified four groups within the A8 and A2 migrant population:

Group One: Those prepared for life and work in Britain

Group Two: New arrivals able, but totally unprepared for life and work in Britain

Group Three: Due to misfortune or sudden job loss - become homeless

Group Four: Long term homeless - with all the complexities this brings

MEETING THE UNMET NEED

"Seeing the poor 'turned away from doorways, frozen, ragged and covered with sores. He was so moved with compassion at having seen so much of all this, that he decided to do something about it as soon as possible'. With the help of a number of devout persons, he rented a house and installed what was necessary and 'began to bring in poor people on his shoulders, and all those who he found anywhere around the city'.... Jesus began to enable John of God... to care for the poor as his heart dictated to him'.

From 'The path of Hospitality in the manner of Saint John of God'

Our proposed strategy is the result of long conversations with and recommendations from homeless agencies and concerned parties which have taken place over a period of several months:

The target group

Having listened to the agencies that have been on the front line with regard to the needs of A8 and A2 migrants and witnessed over a period of time the support on offer from the statutory and voluntary sector, we have decided to tackle the issue from the point of view that 'prevention is better than cure'. Therefore our target group will be A8/A2 migrants falling within the parameters of Group Two: new arrivals - able, but totally unprepared for life and work in Britain.

Our objective

To provide a welcome and what is needed to enable newly arrived A8 and A2 migrants to become work ready thus preventing them from falling into homelessness with its inherent dangers.

The method

We will work in partnership with The Passage Day Centre and The Broadway Day Centre for Homeless Men and Women. Accommodation and all primary care needs will be offered to newly arrived migrants from the A8 and A2 countries who have been referred to our service by the two centres mentioned above on a first come first serve basis.

'A buffer between the bus and their first job'

Neville O'Neill, co-worker
Saint John of God Migrant Worker Project



Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor has invited the Brothers to be present upon the Sanctuary of Westminster Cathedral during the Mass for Migrant Workers, which is taking place on Monday 7th May at 10am.

"As migrants settle and find work, it is to be hoped that they move into local parishes and there find a warm welcome. In the Church no-one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere. For the Church is a sacrament of unity and thus a sign and binding force for the whole human race."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

With basic accommodation and primary care needs met, we will offer a methodical approach to becoming work ready. This will be achieved by:

- A crash course in basic English
- Induction into British cultural values and expectations/basic house keeping skills
- Workers' rights
- Preparing for work
- Obtaining a National Insurance Number
- Bank account
- Registered on the Workers Registration Scheme
- Job search
- Long term accommodation search

The accommodation will be offered to those most in need for a period allowing the necessary preparations for work to take place, and enabling those who have found work to save enough money for a month's deposit for rented accommodation.

We are offering this service to enable people to become 'job ready' not to become dependent. Therefore if the service-user, even with our help has not be able to find work or accommodation within the allotted time then they will be invited to return to the team at the Passage Day Centre who will arrange for them to return to their country of origin, avoiding the danger of falling into homelessness in this country.

It has been agreed that migrants who are recent or entrenched homeless (Groups 3 & 4) will be able to access the services at the Passage Day

Centre or the Broadway Day Centre for Homeless Men and Women.

A working party has been set up to advance the detail of the project. Members of the working party are drawn from the Brothers of Saint John of God, Broadway Day Centre for Homeless Men and Women and The Passage Day Centre.

As a way of helping to finance the service - we will develop an employment agency specifically geared to providing just employment to migrant workers. Other funding will be sought from various charitable trusts, European Union grants and the Brothers' questing activities.

A number of religious congregations have promised the Service personnel with language skills.

The Saint John of God Migrant Worker Service - London is a work of The Hospitaller Order of St John of God and their charity Saint John of God Care Services. They will manage the Service and be responsible for any property leased to the project.

Along with the hands on care and support of migrants - there will be need to engage politically so as to challenge the Government's unjust and ill thought through policies in regard to this matter.

To provide the primary care services such as food, clothing, accommodation and the staff needed to give the professional advice to the hundreds of men and women looking to us for help each week, we are seeking your financial help.

Please send donations to:

**Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God
Saint John of God Migrant
Worker Service
Provincial Curia
Saint Bede's House
Morton Park Way
Darlington
Co Durham
DL1 4XZ**

Our fear is that, without rapid and coordinated action, more A8 nationals will become homeless

Homeless Link Summary

'This new work of mercy is a mammoth task. Beginning from scratch, our main difficulty with the service is funding. There is such injustice surrounding migrant workers in this country. The Government, having welcomed the Eastern Europeans to Britain to do many of the jobs that English people are not interested in doing, have nothing in place to support these men and women when it all goes wrong. If it does go wrong, within hours, many can and have literally, fallen into homelessness; a difficult place for anyone to find themselves, but when you have no official access whatsoever to homeless centres, and no access to financial assistance, and you don't have the language, you are in real trouble. There is no funding available for what we are trying to do, so we are being left with one alternative but to beg for these our new poor. This is proving to be harder than we initially thought because, sadly, the attitude of many English people, even Christians is one of indifference and at times scorn.'

Brother John Martin OH

When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Lev 19:34

March 21st 2007

Dear Bro Robert,

Further to my email of Monday March 19th I write to confirm that our hostel in Euston will be available to the St. John of God Brothers for your Migrant Workers project. As I mentioned in my email it is a work that speaks strongly to us Poor Servants of the Mother of God. In a new age, it is similar to the work our Foundress, Frances/Mother Magdalen Taylor, began in the mid 1800s in the Soho and Tower Hill areas of London when the needy migrants were Irish. Now we are glad to cooperate with you in this mission to the migrants of our time.

Wishing you and this special Migrant project many blessings,
Sincerely,

Sr. Elizabeth Crehan SMG - Superior General

Due to the Providence of God shown through the generosity of the Servants of the Mother of God, we now have a building with facilities for a day centre and accommodation for forty men and women in the heart of London. The Saint John of God Migrant Worker Service...begins!

'Beads & Beats @ Harrogate' 23-25th February 2007

"I feel myself held fast and bound to the Son by means of his Mother...Always say the Rosary and say it well...it is the prayer of her who triumphs over everything..."

St Pio Youth 2000

Brother Michael Newman OH, the Vocation Director, has drawn our attention to the invitation of our Prior General, found within his closing remarks to the General Chapter to continue being creative in fostering vocations to the Order. "...The Lord is asking us to cast our nets, *Duc in Altum [Put out into the deep]*, and to sow the seeds of Hospitaller consecrated life. He is asking us to welcome new candidates and journey with them in their discernment and formation, so that they may consolidate their vocation. The personal commitment of each Brother and his joyful and dedicated life is the first and most important key to renewing our vocations pastoral ministry."

The Prior General's words echo the thoughts expressed in the working document prepared for the General Chapter. In the section entitled 'Suggestions for Reflection and Proposals' we read *"the issue of new vocations, a matter of concern to the Order for many years now, has become particularly urgent and has to be given absolute priority...although it is true that a vocation is a divine call, this does not exempt us from seeking new pastoral strategies in vocational promotion."*

Encouraged by these words, the Brothers were present at the first of many 'Youth Encounters' they will attend this year to awaken Hospitaller vocations. The weekend organised by 'Youth 2000' was called 'beads & beats @ Harrogate', a cool and happening title but one that doesn't quite capture the seriousness in which the huge number of young people that attended entered into the experience of celebrating the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and meditation upon the life of Christ using the Rosary as the tool. As you can imagine, there were many conversations between the young people and the Brothers. During these encounters the Brothers shared the story of Saint John of God, their love for their religious vocation and the work of the Hospitaller Order today in Great Britain and around the world.

The link between the various 'events' over the weekend was the prayerful and meditative recitation of the decades of the Rosary. The

Brothers felt the focus on Mary, the Mother of God, could not have been more appropriate during their first 'Youth Encounter' of this year, since they look to her as their model of Hospitality. The Gospels are full of stories supporting this position and our Charter of Hospitality highlights the most important: 'Before examining the actual deeds of hospitality performed by Jesus we should reflect on the event of 'hospitality', which underlies the whole of the Christian faith, namely, the 'Incarnation.' Mary became the great 'host of God' by welcoming him into her womb as Emmanuel, as 'God-with-us' became the great Host of the whole of humanity. It is no coincidence that from that welcoming act of Mary, poetically expressed in the Annunciation, there immediately followed the beautiful hospitable act of visiting Elizabeth, and the subsequent act of welcoming-in the mother of Jesus.'

Saint John of God had a great love for the Mother of Jesus. He understood the consequences of her 'fiat', her 'yes', her 'Amen' to Gabriel so the world could be embraced by God's love in a new way. John had experienced a powerful demonstration of her maternal presence within the life of the world. She had come to his aid when he was at his lowest ebb. From that time, John wanted to remain in a relationship with her, who had accompanied Jesus literally from 'womb to tomb.' He therefore committed himself to praying the Rosary every day.

'I must tell you that I have been getting on very well with the Rosary, and I hope in God that I shall recite it as often as I can and as he wishes.'

Saint John of God's letter to Luis Bautista

Saint John of God's devotion to the Blessed Virgin has been handed down from one generation of Brothers to the next. The 'handing on' of our Holy Founder's devotion to Mary can be seen not only in the day to day lives of the Brothers but in much of their literature. Brother Gabriel Russotto OH, author of the influential work 'Hospitaller Spirituality' writes: 'words fall us when, in these sad times, we are stirred by such happenings as these. And who can be unaware of the great efficacy of the Rosary, if it is recited by all our religious family, with one

mind and heart, and with this goal in view: to obtain, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, the help of the Almighty for the protection of our souls, our sick, our poor and our hospitals.'

The present General Statutes of our Order remind us that the Brothers 'show their devotion to the Blessed Virgin with the daily recitation of the Rosary or with other practices of Marian piety.' Years before these statutes were written Brother Gabriel remarked that 'one of the most characteristic ways in which the Saint John of God Brothers honour Mary is by reciting the very old antiphon, "Sub Tuum Praesidium" at the end of all their community exercises of devotion. Thus, throughout the day, the filial invocation is made many times, to the "Virgin, glorious and blessed." This practice continues to this day.

There is an old saying that goes: 'Don't tell me you love me... show me!' and in a certain sense the same can be said to anyone who claims to be devoted to the Mother of God: don't tell me... show me! Prayer is the source or well-spring from which we draw the 'energy' to imitate the one who made room for the 'Stranger' within herself. These sentiments are echoed loud and clear in our Constitutions: 'the Virgin Mary is the special model of consecration: accepting the word of God, she consecrated herself wholly to the person and work of Jesus. In the same way, it is Mary, the ever virginal, humble and poor handmaid of the Lord, who, with her example, encourages us to be faithful to the designs of the Holy Spirit. It is, moreover, the "Mother of Mercy" and "Health of the Sick" who teaches us to have compassion for human pain and to try to relieve the affliction and distress of those who suffer.'

For us members of the Saint John of God family, the true depth of our Marian devotion which as we have recalled is very much part of our Hospitaller tradition, is shown not so much in what kind of Marian prayers we use or how often they are upon our lips, though an indispensable aspect of the tradition, but how our love of the Mother of God and our prayers to her enrich our relationships and direct the choices we make, in regard to who we decide to stand beside in this world, and with whom we wish to be associated.

Our keeping company with God's lowly handmaid has to place us side by side with the very poor; with those no one else wishes to be near. Authentic Marian devotion gives us the courage to choose to be associated with those



who have nothing, whose only recourse is the Grace of God, for it is in that place that God came upon Mary and therefore it is in that place, we too shall discover her.

In our moving towards 'her/them', we have to make both an interior and exterior journey, for what is poor, abandoned, even condemned on either of these paths, needs our understanding, acceptance and embrace, if we are to become tender of heart, with a heart as 'big as the ocean', alert to unmet needs and willing to respond. In entering this process, this true 'school of hospitality' we will gradually develop a Marian heart, which the most Reverend Brother Faustino Calvo OH suggested in one of his General Circulars to the whole Order almost eighty years ago, enables us to support the "sick and needy as a mother with her own suffering child. How many remedies will she not try, how many sacrifices will she not undergo, to get the child back to health. This is the well-worn path we must follow in practicing holy hospitality."

'Mary pondered all these things in her heart' was a fitting title for the reflection that brought our 'Vocation Weekend' to a close. The weekend was 'devotional' and fun. The Brothers found the whole experience very moving especially witnessing so many young people doing their best to be present to God as he is present to them. A number of these young people were given the 'Vocation Pack.' Please pray that the presence of the Brothers at this youth event may bear Hospitaller fruit!

Those young people who answer the Hospitaller call will begin their Hospitaller experience in the heart of London. They will work along side the Brothers helping migrant workers to become 'job ready' thus doing their best to prevent these men and women becoming homeless with all its inherent dangers.

Our next 'Youth Encounter' will take place in Newcastle on the 28th and 29th of April 07.

Two vocation days have been planned in collaboration with the Sisters of St Joseph of Anney at:
Llantarnam Abbey, Cwmbran,
Torfaen, Wales, NP44 3YJ

- 24th June 2007: 16-18
- 21st October: 19+

If you would like to take part in either of these days please contact Sr Margaret:
01634 826341 or 078162 15612





Saint John of God Food Bank

“Our Hospitaller Order was thus born of the gospel of mercy as lived in its fullness by Saint John of God.”

Constitutions

The Saint John of God Food Bank opened in Andover in April 2006. It was started as a way of publicly demonstrating love of one's neighbour in a very practical manner by providing a three day supply of food for needy people of all faiths or none, experiencing a short term crisis. Because of prior research we knew that there was significant deprivation, not only on some of our urban estates but also in the leafy picturesque villages with their clear trout streams for which the Test Valley is famous. We wished to break out of the comfortable confines of our Parish buildings, to place our hand in the hand of the Lord, to obey His call to feed the hungry, to welcome the stranger, to go forth and bear fruit - fruit that will last. To remind us of our duty we had a lovely statue of Saint John of God mounted on the external wall of the Food Bank.

The last nine months have been busy ones for our volunteers. We have about sixty people involved in a variety of tasks. Some work in the office, where furniture and computers donated by parishioners. They organise the rosters for volunteers, write the appeals for support to the townsfolk, handle all myriad tasks of a busy office and produce an impressive array of statistics when needed. Others work in the warehouse weighing, sorting, packing and distributing the food boxes - a single box for an individual (10Kg) and two family boxes (23kg) for two or more people. Since April 2006 we have distributed more than 7 tons of food, freely donated for people in need. We now have volunteers from the local Baptist and Church of England congregations and from other small Christian denominations.

We issue regular shopping lists tailored to meet specific needs. These lists are handed out to people entering our local supermarket and each time generate more than half a ton of food donations. The workers in a number of businesses club together to buy more food. Frequently our telephone rings with the lovely question - "What do you need?" We are currently in the process of producing a brochure for wide distribution, designed by a Baptist

volunteer and funded by a local plumber. An electrical company has paid for a six months supply of food boxes. We never cease to marvel at the goodwill and support being demonstrated by so many.

Before we commence work we pause, come together, and say aloud a prayer written for us by our previous Parish Priest, Father Des Connolly: a Montfort Missionary working with the Saint John of God Brothers.

Oh gracious God may the work that we are soon to begin be a shimmering mirror of your handiwork. May it add to the light of Your presence in this place, since it is done with great love, joy, warmth and humble service. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen St Joseph the Worker, Pray for us Saint John of God, Pray for us.

Patrick Lavelle

“ Believe me when I say that with Christ holding out His hands and Saint John of God as a guide everyone can walk on water and it's a fantastic experience. Don't miss out.”



Saint John of God Care Services



Saint John of God Management Services to expand with three new services

We are in the process of taking over responsibility for the full management of three new services in addition to our three existing services at Bryn Mair, Bethany, and Kingstanding. The new services are based in Hythe, Boscombe and Ealing.

The service at Hythe is known as 'Villa Maria', and is a beautiful registered residential home which provides care for twenty-two elderly Sisters, but also has a respite provision for elderly people within the local community. This service will be managed on behalf of the Marist Sisters. We have already recruited a Service Manager, and a total of thirty-eight staff will be transferred to our employment within the next few weeks.

The service at Boscombe is a purpose-built registered residential home, due for completion in March, and will provide care for eighteen elderly Fathers/Brothers. This is a Corpus Christi Jesuit Community. The home has been built to the highest possible standard imaginable, and is very close to the sea. Bev Walton, the current Community Co-ordinator at Bethany, will be shortly seconded to Boscombe for a three to six month period, to assist in the setting up of this service, including the recruitment of the staff team. We wish you every success Bev, and are confident you will cope wonderfully well.

The service at Ealing will be managed on behalf of the Sisters of Saint Jeanne Antide, and is a house where care will be provided for seven elderly frail Sisters. It will be necessary to recruit a Manager and a very small staff team.

Management support in recruitment, staff training, and many other individual needs of each Congregation continues to be provided to five other congregations in England and even Ireland, and new referrals do keep arriving. Excellent support services are currently provided from the Northern Region which are proving to be invaluable.

As you can see, life is becoming extremely busy, and to this end we are currently in the process of recruiting an Assistant Project Development Manager, who will be based primarily in the South. This is an opportunity for me to thank everyone who has been so helpful and supportive during the past two years, and really given me the confidence to carry out this very different role.

Sara Hopkins
Project Development Manager
Saint John of God Management Services



These pictures are from our existing Management Services in Wales, Preston and Birmingham



Saint John of God Care Services

Scotland Feast Day

SAINT ANDREW'S DAY: 30TH NOVEMBER

We began our festivities with the celebration of Mass by Father Des Connolly SMM offered for the staff and residents in the Supported Living Service. The day was very successful and enjoyed by all the ladies, staff, Brother Michael Newman and Brother Stanislaus Neild.



Donation for Saint John of God Horticultural Training Centre

Staff at Three Valleys Water, Hatfield paid £1 for the privilege of dressing down for Saint John of God Care Services.

The donation of £400 was handed over among the colourful plants at the Horticultural Training Centre in Welwyn Garden City, which offers a supportive working environment and training to people with a wide range of special needs.

Sarah Ringe, Sampler Technician of Three Valleys Water, whose mum, Maria works for Saint John of God Care Services as a Regional Housing Manager, organised the fundraising with her work colleagues. Sarah said, "Saint John of God Care Services plays an important role in our local community by helping people who are disadvantaged to realise their full potential. I was pleased to be able to help and thank Three Valleys Water who match-funded the £200 raised by staff."

Brother John O'Neill thanked the staff at Three Valleys Water. "This donation will really help the Centre."

Three Valleys Water is the UK's largest water supply only company and supply three million customers in the South of England.



We, the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God, give thanks to the Lord for the gift he has bestowed on his Church in Saint John of God.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and inwardly transformed by the merciful love of the Father, he lived love for the God and neighbour in perfect unity.

He dedicated himself completely To the salvation of his brethren.



SERVICES IN GREAT BRITAIN

SCOTLAND	East Renfrewshire	Supported Living Service
NORTH EAST	Jarrow South Shields Middlesbrough Billingham Darlington	Residential Care Home for people with learning disabilities Two Residential Care Homes for people with learning disabilities Residential Care Home for people with physical disabilities Residential Care Home for people with profound physical and learning disabilities and complex needs Residential Care Home for people with physical and learning disabilities
NORTH YORKSHIRE	Scorton Catterick Village Leyburn	Supported Living Service Residential Care Home for people with learning disabilities Residential Care Home for people with learning disabilities
WEST YORKSHIRE	Bradford Thornton Clayton Queensbury Calderdale Luddendenfoot	Supported Living Service Five Nursing Homes for people with physical and learning disabilities Two Nursing Homes for people with physical and learning disabilities Four Nursing Homes for people with physical and learning disabilities Domiciliary Care Outreach Service Respite Nursing Care Service
HERTFORDSHIRE	Welwyn Garden City Hatfield	Supported Living Service Saint John of God Horticultural Training Centre Woodhall Community Centre Supported Living Service Two Residential Care Homes for people with learning disabilities Leisure, Education and Occupational Service Mike Mably House - Accommodation & Resettlement Service Floating Drug and Alcohol Support Service
LONDON	Enfield	Supported Living Service for people with learning disabilities Supported Living Service for people with mental health issues Saint John of God Resource Centre - Leisure, Education and Occupational Service

NORTH WALES, LANCASHIRE, BIRMINGHAM, DORSET, LONDON AND KENT
Working in partnership with other Religious Orders and Congregations

SAINT JOHN OF GOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Providing consultancy services for Religious Orders and Congregations

MIGRANT WORKER PROJECT
London

THE MEDAILLE TRUST
For security purposes we cannot disclose locations

**And faithfully imitated the Saviour
In his attitudes and actions of mercy.**

**Despite many debts, worries and cares,
He trusted wholly in Jesus Christ
and devoted himself totally to serving the poor
and the sick in Spain, in the city of Granada,
whence he returned to the Father in the year 1550.**

**Our Hospitaller Order and its charity, Saint John of
God Care Services were thus born of the Gospel of
Mercy as lived in its fullness by Saint John of God.**

Individual brochures are available for all of our services, please contact the Publications Office on 01325 373704 to obtain copies or email: enquiries@sjogcareservices.org.uk

Information about all of our services can be found on our website
www.sjogcareservices.org.uk



Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

A parable of a new world in the midst of suffering and marginalisation



“This is certainly a wonderful thing, worthy of deep consideration - the sight of a few poor men like yourselves in a habit which is lowly and despised by the world, carrying on so great a work, and such disbursement as even powerful and rich princes could not do.”

Letter of the Archbishop of Granada to the Brothers of Saint John of God (1581)

If you are single, male and Catholic, and want to something about the suffering endured by those who are marginalised within our society, then life as a Hospitaller Brother could be worth investigating.

Contact Details

The Vocations Office
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God
Provincial Curia, Saint Bede's House, Morton Park Way
Darlington, Co Durham, DLI 4XZ

Tel: 01325 373700
Email: enquiries@hospitaller.org.uk

www.hospitaller.org.uk/vocations