

hospitaller

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Hospitaller Order of
Saint John of God



Perhaps it is in the forgotten parts of our world, in its slum areas, working with the poorest people, the displaced, the abandoned sick and frail elderly, neglected children and so on, that we will find the new doorways that host the neediest members of society. This is where the church needs to be and where we need to be...

Brother Donatus Forkan, OH

Introduction

“Given the imperative that the mission demands, in simple terms the vast numbers of people who are suffering with no-one to care for them, and the new needs that are emerging in our society, requires co-workers not only to take on leadership roles within the existing services, but to become the protagonists and founders of new works without the presence of Brothers.”

These words, both challenging and inspirational formed part of a much larger presentation given by Brother Donatus OH our Prior General, to the first meeting of Major Superiors of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God after the General Chapter of 2007. They build upon the recent legacy of Brother Pierluigi Marchesi OH and Brother Pascual Piles OH, both former Prior Generals. They encapsulate a way of looking at the collaboration of Brothers and co-workers, which if embraced, will keep the Gospel vision of ‘Being good news to the poor’ - in the manner of Saint John of God and his companions alive, well into the future.

Implicit in Brother Donatus’ statement is a need for each one of us to not only embrace our Hospitaller apostolate but to see ourselves as men and women who have responsibility for its development. For this development to be in the manner of John of God it is essential that we fall in love again with the Father of the Poor from Granada, so as to be able to see the world and its suffering through his eyes and to hear the cries of the poor with his ears and so be moved to a new Hospitality, to that ‘third space’ that belongs to neither those providing support or those receiving it, but to both.

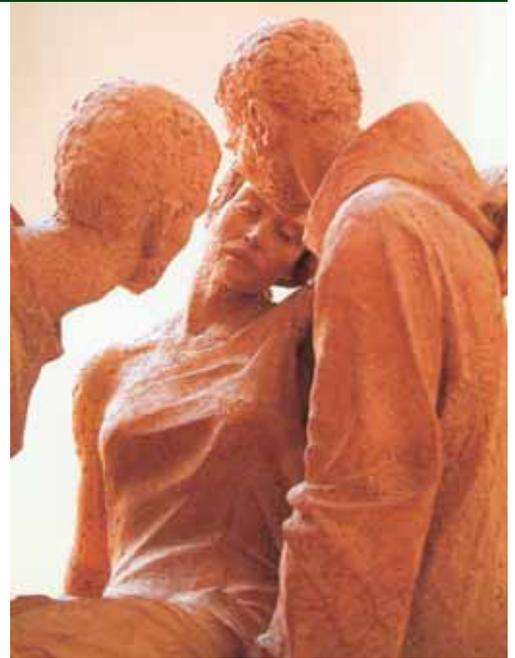
For me, Brother Donatus’ words form a perfect backdrop to the articles within this edition of the Hospitaller. They are varied, local and global. They celebrate the wonderful care and support taking place within our services and the new ministries we are managing and developing, such as the Medaille Trust and the Saint John of God Migrant Worker Project and the Order’s projects worldwide.

The articles celebrate the work of Hospitaller Women: our new Chief Executive - Bridget Doogan, the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, the Daughters of Charity and the collaboration that is taking place between our Hospitaller family and the other organisations walking with those who often find themselves on the edges of society.

There are articles that call for a response, not just in terms of financial contributions so as to enable this ‘work of God’ to continue to meet ‘unmet needs’ but, also in terms of challenging the Government on major changes to ethical policies in Britain.

Further articles reflect upon developments in the governance of the Order by seriously acknowledging the vision, professionalism and indispensable contribution of co-workers to our Hospitaller mission around the world.

I am delighted to recommend this magazine to you. I hope you will find it as thought provoking and as encouraging as I do!



Left to right: Sister Angela Murphy, Presentation Sisters; Brother Michael Newman OH; Brother John Stretton OH; Brother John Martin OH; Brother Des Connolly, Missionaries of the Company of Mary; Sister Lourdes, Provincial, Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Brother Finnian OH (Irish Province); Mr Neville O'Neill, Hospitaller co-worker, Migrant Worker Project. This photo was taken at the Strangers into Citizens March last year held in Trafalgar Square.



The Medaille Trust is a charity founded by Catholic nuns, brothers and priests with the aim of helping women, young men and children who have been freed from sex-trafficking and their empowerment, enabling them to regain their sense of dignity and self-worth. This is done by providing safe-housing and offering opportunities for physical and psychological healing and rehabilitation. We raise awareness of the plight of those who are enslaved and exploited in the sex-trafficking industry in the UK and campaign on this issue.



Sister Ann Teresa,
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Anney
– founder of The Medaille Trust

Report from the Chairman of the Medaille Trust

Brother Des Connolly - Missionaries of the Company of Mary

As Chair of the Medaille Trust I welcome the opportunity to present this report to the readers of Hospitaller on the Trust's work, which has become, for the whole Church, a major concern with regard to the dignity and wellbeing of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

"Human trafficking is a critical issue for the Holy See," he said. He offered the Vatican's full support for "the increasing numbers of consecrated persons engaged in this fight."

Monsignor Pietro Parolin, Vatican Undersecretary of State

We are indebted to the Religious and lay men and women who have chosen to walk with us and have therefore been responsible for the healing of many women who have sought refuge within the safety of our homes. The commitment shown by numerous Religious in this country in response to the plight of women and children held against their will and exploited is mirrored throughout the world.



Two major issues that we are dealing with at the moment are that of providing some form of service to trafficked children and the question of 'demand'. To tackle either needs a commitment from the Trust, reminiscent of those who dared to speak out in favour of the abolishment of capital punishment or the kind of slavery abhorrent to William Wilberforce or that of Millicent Fawcett when she founded the National Union of Women's Suffrage.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Elaine Hill as Project Manager of our safe-houses. From the day Elaine began to work for the Trust her supportive presence, experience and wisdom has been felt at every level. The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God's loss has been The Medaille Trust's gain. Elaine is blessed to walk on ground prepared by Anne Rowlands, Assistant Chief Executive to Saint John of God Care Services. Anne, amongst the many responsibilities that are attached to her position within the Order, found time to create a professional working environment for all those associated with the Trust. Her manner and her attention to detail have provided Elaine with a solid base to build upon. She will always be remembered as one who was there from the beginning and of course continues to assist us in our work.

The TRAC group are continuing efforts to provide information about our work to various groups and agencies nationally. They are consistent in their efforts to place the crime of trafficking in human beings before various governmental bodies, attempting to force them to regulate on behalf of the victims and to prosecute those who benefit from their enslavement and abuse. The issue of fundraising and the generosity of so many men and women up and down the country, including school children and six-formers are recalled.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Medaille Trust, I need to thank all the Religious Congregations who have supported us over the last year. Many have shared with us their resources, personnel, expertise, and finances. There is one group however that must be mentioned especially – the Provincial, Brother John Martin OH and the Brothers of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, and a number of their co-workers. The Brothers have put so much at our disposal. They have enabled Sister Ann Teresa's vision to become a reality, using their expertise in the fields of supported living, human resources, accountancy, secretarial services and publishing. The Trust is indebted to them. As a Missionary of the Company of Mary who works on a number of projects with and for the Order, none of this surprises me. For these men are simply following in the footsteps of the beautiful Saint John of God...creatively!

Brother Des Connolly, SMM

A Call to Renewal - a re-directing

This was the first meeting of the all the Major Superiors of the Hospitaller Order since the General Chapter of a year ago. For the General Administration, it was the final act of putting in place their plans as leaders of the Order over the next six years.

From the outset, Brother Donatus made it clear that he perceived the role of those in leadership in terms of animation, renewal and advancing the mission of Hospitality. For this to be effective, those in governance within the Order need to work in communion with one another, promoting communion throughout the Order and with the local church, in dialogue with others and with society in general. Donatus reminded the delegates that their leadership needed to be creative, courageous, imaginative, visionary and mission-driven. He reminded those present that hospitality in the style of Saint John of God is at the very heart of belonging to the family of Saint John of God. There was a need therefore to be constantly and consistently evaluating, re-discovering, re-defining, re-directing, re-visioning the mission in response to the needs of today and projecting it into the future in a way that is flexible, that is honest and open to new trends and scientific developments, in a spirit of dialogue and sincerity. "Today, the Order's leaders need to have a passion for the hospitality of Saint John of God in the world of today, and to possess the skills to communicate this optimism and vision to others."

There is a need to communicate traditional fundamental values in a manner that is humble, emanating from a 'heart that listens', that encourages dialogue and is expressed in a language that the people of today can understand.

The Brother General spoke of the huge changes the Order had undergone since the Second Vatican Council that makes it almost unrecognisable in some parts of the world from what it was prior to the Council, except for its central core value of hospitality. 'This,' he said, 'should fill us with a sense of pride in the Order to which we are privileged to belong. It is wonderful to be easily recognised for who we are, what we stand for, and our mission.'

He thanked previous generations of Brothers who had the vision, the humility and the zeal for the mission of Saint John of God that impelled them to make hard choices, to take tough decisions: in a word, to change. 'Unless we change, the very things we wish to preserve or hold on to will be lost... This requires an openness to the spirit, to fix our gaze, more than ever before, on the face of the Lord.'

Brother Donatus referred to the first significant change that has occurred - that the Order is achieving a truly 'international status' in terms of membership, with a strong ecumenical emphasis, not only in terms of the people whom the charism of Hospitality requires us to serve, and which has always been part of our mission, but also of members of other faiths and none, who find that working with the Order and becoming immersed in the hospitality of Saint John of God helps them not only to be better human beings and more professionally fulfilled, but also better members of the particular religious group or church to which they belong.'

He continued by saying that 'those Brothers and co-workers belonging to the new entities are now 'missionaries in their own land or in their own continent,' with full responsibility for the inculturation of hospitality in the manner of Saint John of God, and in the unique way of living the religious life that is authentically Hospitaller. Given the many needs of their people, the shortage of resources, the members of the Order in the developing countries need to be receptive to, and willing to receive, help from other Provinces in the industrialized countries and from associations in the form of twinning, joint projects and continuing formation, benefiting from these countries' expertise acquired in administration and management down the centuries, and to seek other ways of co-operating. While this is mutually enriching, it demands humility, mutual respect, passion for the mission of Saint John of God and the careful preparation of all those involved in the process of cooperation for it to be successful.

From the outset of his address, Brother Donatus focused on 'Mission'. The Order was not a monastic institution, and those who sought entry into its ranks needed to be men on fire with the charism of Saint John of God, only having eyes for the suffering and being men ready to enter their world so as to alleviate it. Donatus said, 'A dramatic evolution has taken place over the past three decades or so in the way the Order views itself. It no longer sees itself as comprising only of Brothers, who are assisted in the exercise of the apostolate by lay staff, a lay work force, but rather as 'Brothers and co-workers united in the mission and charism'.

Overall, the Order is continuing to move forward with a new vision of the Order as a family, and that we welcome the possibility of sharing our charism, spirituality and mission with others, as a family. This situation, which has been very slowly gathering strength, is a challenge to us to identify so closely with our mission that our co-workers feel animated to do likewise, not only because the apostolic works of the Order, particularly in the developed countries, have become enormously complex, but also because it is driven by the Gospel imperative to joyfully and freely share what we have freely received from the Lord, for the good of the ecclesial community and for the proclamation of the Gospel of mercy.

The Path of Hospitality – Brother Pascual Piles, OH





In our world there is still so much violence so much alienation, social illness, and so many millions of starving men and women just because the heart has not yet won the battle. That battle is what Schneider calls the struggle for the reign of God - living for an alternative world.

Given the imperative that the mission demands, in simple terms the vast numbers of people who are suffering with no-one to care for them, and the new needs that are emerging in our society, requires co-workers not only to take on leadership roles within the existing services, but to become the protagonists and founders of new works without the presence of Brothers. By 2008, half of the world's population (estimated 3.2 billion people) will be living in cities. Perhaps it is in the inner cities, in the slum areas, working with people of a subsistence level of income, immigrants, the sick and frail elderly, neglected children and so on, that we will find the new porches, the new platforms and new doorways that will host the neediest members of society. This is where the church needs to be, and this is where we need to be, but it will take planning, visioning and very careful preparation.

The services that the Order is providing are increasing by the day. Not only are more people coming to our centres than ever before, but the demand for more services to meet new and unmet needs is a source of constant concern to all of us. How often do we receive requests from Bishops and others for help to either set up a medical service or to take over a hospital already in existence? The Order is outward-looking in a new movement that has developed over the past forty years, and while not abandoning our traditional ministries and 'institutions', it is moving more and more into the community, working with local people, bringing greatly needed services, preventive medicine and education. This, as I see it, is the way forward for us.

We need to have a listening heart; we need to listen to the cry of the poor; we need to listen to those who are burdened with suffering, whatever the origin or cause of their suffering. We need to sit with John of God as he laments at so many people suffering, my brothers and sisters, and since I cannot help them all it breaks my heart.

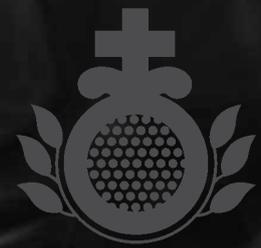


There are so many people suffering and the list is so long. Eleven children die every minute from neglect; millions of children are deprived of an education; children are being abused – sold into slave labour, conscripted to fight as soldiers, prostitution; children born with a learning disability are allowed to die of neglect or are not given the possibility of an education or training to develop the skills and talents they possess; the elderly who are the 'new poor' in many countries of the industrialised north; individuals and families who suffer as a result of AIDS; people suffering from mental illness; families and communities affected by natural disasters, such as drought or flooding; victims of domestic violence, women and children... and so on.

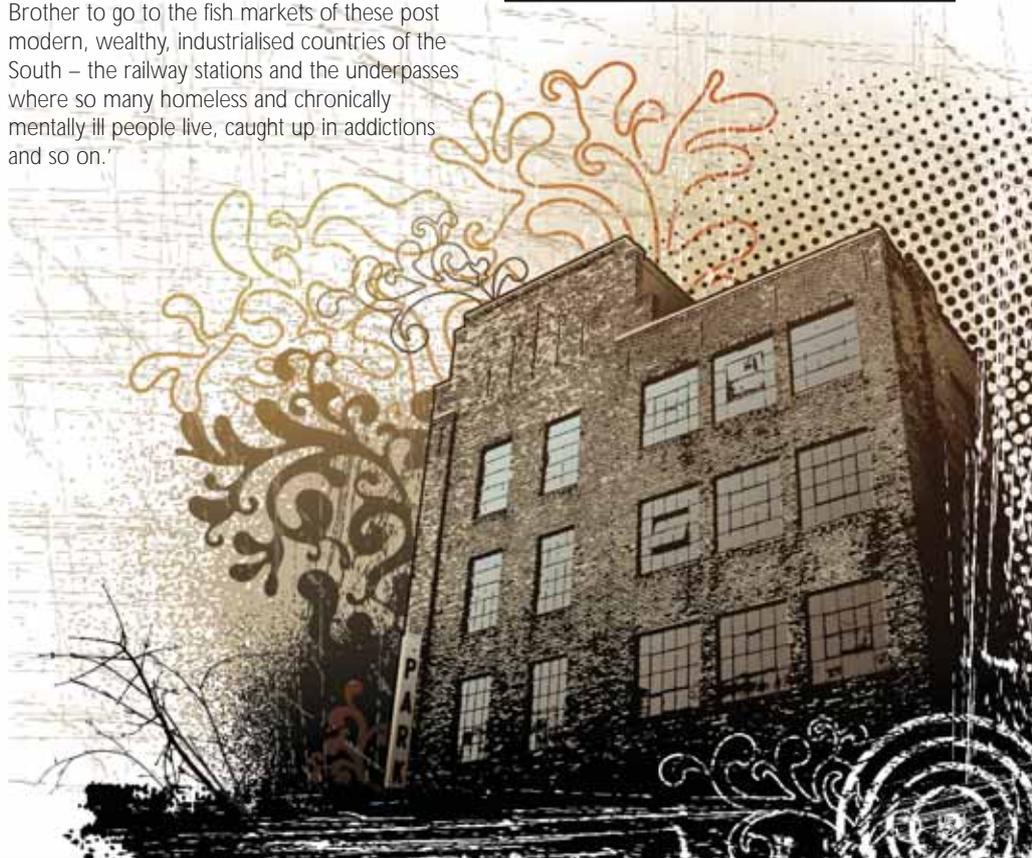
Would John of God be running a large institution today, or would he hand it over to Angulo, the co-worker, who was of the same mind as John of God and capable of administering the service in the way John would wish it to be administered? Brother Pierluigi Marchesi in his writings expressed the view that he believed that John of God would have no problem in handing over the running of the hospital or centre to the co-workers. This would free the Brother to go to the fish markets of these post modern, wealthy, industrialised countries of the South – the railway stations and the underpasses where so many homeless and chronically mentally ill people live, caught up in addictions and so on.'



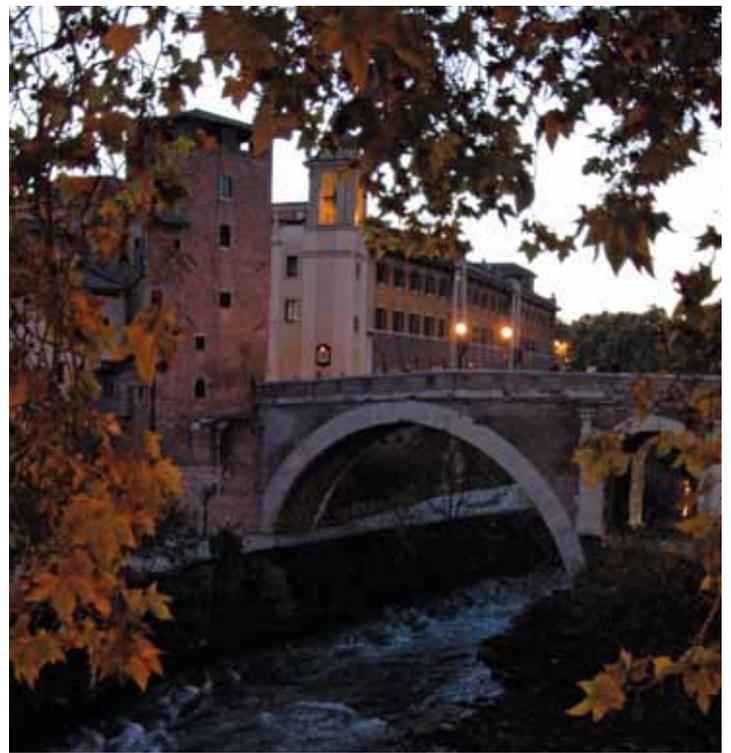
"The New Hospitality must be expressed in two directions: in innovative centres in the community and offering new responses where care is not being provided by others... We therefore have to review the way we think and act, so that we can transform our existence as Brothers or co-workers to become truly transparent living witnesses of the merciful love of God."



We have two particular gifts to offer the church and humanity as a Religious Order: one is a sense of BROTHERHOOD to be Brother to the other, and HOSPITALITY, the unconditional acceptance of the stranger whose only demand on us is his or her particular need.



The Official Installation of the New General Manager of the Hospital of Saint John Calibita on Tiber Island Rome



On 2nd April 2007, Dr Cellucci became the first general manager of the Brothers' historic hospital of Saint John Calibita on Tiber Island in Rome. The following is part of the address that Brother Donatus gave to the Brothers and co-workers who serve the people of Rome and its surrounds, by offering excellent health care and support.

Today, we are celebrating a special event: the official installation of the first lay General Manager in the history of this hospital of the Brothers of Saint John of God on Tiber Island.

We are living in an exciting age, which is throwing down many challenges to us. Having to address challenges is nothing new to the Order. In the past, we felt that these challenges were insurmountable, and they were caused by many issues. Through its history and thanks to its strength, which comes directly from the Holy Spirit, the Order has worked through people and an event, enabling it to take up the challenges it has always found itself confronted with.

The teachings of the Second Vatican Council have influenced the way we understand the Church, and they have also had repercussions on the role of the Laity in the Church. The Brothers General who have preceded me, Brother Pierluigi Marchesi, Brother Brian O'Donnell and Brother Pascual Piles, seriously took the teachings of the Council, including the role of the laity as co-workers in the mission, and have developed the modern concept of unity.

The new vision of the irreplaceable role of co-workers in serving our patients has led to the introduction of new structures, policies and procedures: a new vision of the future of the mission shared jointly by Brothers and co-workers. I firmly believe that if the Brothers and co-workers work together at every level in the Order this will be the sure guarantee of the future of the hospitality of Saint John of God in our world.

Together, all of us are co-workers of Saint John of God, each one with their own responsibilities.

This is why today is a historic date, not only for this Tiber Island Hospital but above all for the whole Order because we are preparing to take a further step forward by inviting Dr Cellucci to take responsibility for the hospital as its General Manager.

May Saint John of God, our founder, be for us a model and an encouragement to practise Hospitality, accompanying us and guiding us all along the path that we must take together.

Island of health – Island of peace

Tiber Island has always had a special place in the hearts of the Brothers of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God. The Island has for thousands of years been associated with the sick and the ministry of healing. It was not long after the Order received official recognition that they were given responsibility to continue this work on this special place between the 'two bridges'. Being located not far from the Vatican, the buildings not only served as the best hospital in Rome, but also as the General Headquarters of the Order. In recent years the General Administration has moved to a more suitable site. The Hospital on Tiber Island continues to flourish under the care of the Order and is regularly used by the General and his team when hosting special events.



One such event was the First International Conference for the Establishment of a Healthcare/Welfare Work in a Mediterranean at Peace, which ended on 6 December in Rome at the Order's Hospital on Tiber Island, attended by the Ministers of Health of the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority with representatives of Italian institutions, who had been meeting in various venues in Milan and Rome to discuss co-operation between the healthcare authorities in their respective countries as a practical means of achieving peace.

"The reason for the Brothers of Saint John of God's commitment to this project is the feeling that we can co-operate in bringing peace to the Mediterranean, drawing on the experience of our Nazareth Hospital where Jews, Christians and Muslims are working together day after day".

Brother Giampietro Luzzato OH

Visit to the North East by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz



The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz & Brother John Martin, OH at the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Mount Saint Joseph, Newcastle

The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz, visited the North East for the first time since becoming Apostolic Nuncio in London in February 2005. He spent a packed three days meeting young people, clergy, and diocesan workers, opening a school, and visiting sites of Christian heritage in the region.

The Diocesan Youth Council presented Archbishop Sainz Muñoz with a framed message to deliver to the Pope, in which they promised to pray for Pope Benedict.

Bishop Dunn, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, said: "He's the new papal ambassador to the UK and he's never been to the North East of England before. It's been an opportunity for us as a diocese to show some of the good things that are happening in our diocese, especially what the young people are doing."

Archbishop Sainz Muñoz also opened the Cardinal Hume School in Gateshead, on October 18. Before coming to Britain, he was Nuncio to the European Community, and previously held that post in Cuba and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

President Bush Visits Little Sisters of the Poor and Discusses Volunteerism - Washington, D.C.

As we celebrate the opening of the Benito Health Centre in Ghana by the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the near completion of the new Little Sisters home in Stoke Newington, London we could not help but link these two events by reporting on the visit of President Bush to the Little Sisters in Washington celebrating Volunteerism. The reason?: St Benedict Menni is both the Holy Founder of the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Universal Patron of Volunteers.

Having met the residents, volunteers to the home, the sisters, His Grace Archbishop Donald Wuerl and other guests, President Bush gave the following address:

"Listen, thank you all for welcoming us. Laura and I are honored to be with you. Sister, thanks for your hospitality, and more importantly, thank you for showing the nation what is possible when people with loving hearts reach out to a neighbor in need. It is easy to feel the great compassion of the sisters here in this hall as you help make somebody else's Christmas a joyous time of celebration.

First, there are volunteers here in the community who has taken time out of their busy schedules to volunteer to help somebody. And that's one of the messages of the Christmas season, that I hope our fellow citizens reach out and find a neighbour in need, find out somebody who needs a loving pat on the back, or somebody who could use a little help in learning how to read, or an elderly citizen who wants to know that somebody cares for them. It doesn't take much effort; it takes a little prioritization. And during a season in which we count our blessings, I would hope those of us who are blessed help somebody else.

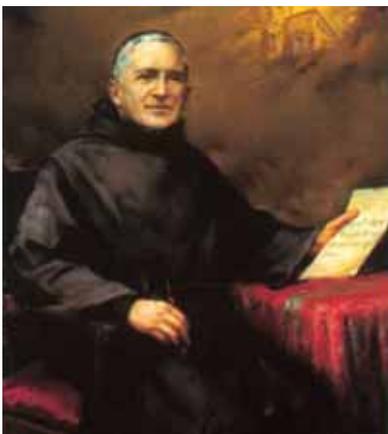
And there's no better place to come to see that happening than right here. The Little Sisters of the Poor are renowned for their great hearts and wonderful compassion. Isn't that right, Archbishop?

And so Laura and I are thrilled to be here with you all. I do want to thank the volunteers -- high school students, some going to the schools nearby, some home-schooled, who have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.





Benito Health Centre - Ghana



Saint Benedict Menni OH (1841- 1914) re-established the Spanish Province of the Brothers of Saint John of God in 1884, and was the Provincial of the Province until 1903. He had the great joy of giving the holy habit to almost one thousand candidates. Between Spain, Portugal and Mexico he founded 15 hospitals for all kinds of patients, above all for those living with mental health issues and children with severe physical disability, who at the time were the most neglected by public assistance. At this time, the Brothers were only permitted to care for male patients. Brother Benedict, walking in the footsteps of Saint John of God, was determined to meet another unmet need: to provide holistic care to thousands of women suffering with mental illness. In November 1880, Brother Benedict Menni, Maria Josefa Recio and Maria Augustias Giménez founded a Congregation of Religious Women, known since 1908, as the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Today, these wonderful Sisters are present in 24 countries, with 116 communities. The Mother House is in Ciempozulos (Spain) where lies the body of our Brother Saint Benedict Menni OH. Being faithful to his charisma, the Sisters have begun a new work in Ghana for men, women and children with mental health problems and learning disability. These are a group of highly stigmatized and misunderstood people, yet the Sisters have chosen to walk with them and to stand by their side. Sister Lourdes, Provincial leader of the British Province has kindly shared the background and hopes for this inspiring initiative.

In our Provincial Chapter in 2000 a great challenge was put upon us to start a new work, following our main charisma, to care for people suffering with psychiatric illnesses. This was to be in Ghana, Africa, where, since 1965, we have been running a general hospital. There has been a tremendous improvement in the field of medicine - surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology and other services, but the need for a mental health service has never been deemed necessary.

Back in 1995, several new dioceses were created: Obuasi (Adansi) was among them. On his first study of the dioceses, the Bishop of Obuasi, Mgr Thomas Mensah saw the need for health services and he did not hesitate to ask us to assist him in ministering to the sick, the poor and the needy in his dioceses. Our Superiors accepted the invitation and we planned to integrate mental health in our new facility and establish a clinic for general medicine and a day centre for people with mental health problems.

We were aware that for the majority of the people, their belief was that their mental health problems were caused by evil spirits, curse and black power. We knew that our mission was hard and people looked down on us because we were "for the mind" as it was often referred to at the beginning. After a few difficulties, we found a piece of land that was property of the diocese. We found an organisation that agreed to take part in the project and work began on the Benito Menni Centre in June 2001. The place was chosen by our 'guardian angel', Benito Menni, perhaps? Indeed a providential place.

It is not strange to meet people affected by mental illness in the cities and in the villages. Most of the time they wander on the roads and you would find them walking long distances, but it was rare to see children with mental health problems and learning disabilities. Soon these children were coming to us with their relatives for treatment.



In most cases the disabilities we saw were due to epilepsy which was hardly ever treated, prolonged and difficult births, Downs syndrome, learning disabilities and others. This was enough reason to make provision for the children living in our areas and the surroundings villages.

Our Objectives:

- Alleviating the suffering of the sick especially those with mental health problems and learning disabilities.
- The psychological rehabilitation of the patients and helping them to recover their professional skills.
- Re-incorporating them in to their social and home environment.
- Providing continuing training in mental health for the local personnel.
- Sensitising families and Ghanaian society in order to increase an understanding and acceptance of people with mental health problems and learning disabilities.

Sister Lourdes
Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Memorial Mass



The Order's Memorial Mass was held on 3rd November this year. It was attended by family and friends who have died in the past year, all in some way touched by Saint John of God.

Those remembered were:

Roy de Cruz	Audrey Carter
Mark Rand	Sheila Wright
Geoffrey Pocock	Joe Lee
Peter Bird -	Sister Teresa Mary
Iris May Mafham	Ellie Stretton
Sister Teresa Finnety	Hugh Bennison
Sister Frances	Harry Suddes
Bridgette Clelland	Isobel Bottoms
Sister Bernadette Steel	Bishop Augustine Harris
Robert Muldoon	George Clifton
Emily Pratley	John Metcalfe
Margaret Patterson	Bev Oxley
Cyril Green	

"The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want ... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, because you are with me ..." The true shepherd is one who knows even the path that passes through the valley of death; one who walks with me even on the path of final solitude, where no one can accompany me, guiding me through: he himself has walked this path, he has descended into the kingdom of death, he has conquered death, and he has returned to accompany us now and to give us the certainty that, together with him, we can find a way through. The realisation that there is One who even in death accompanies me, and with his "rod and his staff comforts me", so that "I fear no evil" —this was the new "hope" that arose over the life of believers.
Pope Benedict XVI – "Spe Salvi"

Shortly before we went to print we learnt of the deaths of two lovely people - the Right Reverend Bishop Kevin Dunn and Michael Steimetz. Michael was a resident at the Order's residential care home in Darlington. When he died he was surrounded by his family, including his mum Karen, grandmother Rebecca, Brother Bonaventure Garrard and staff of Saint John of God Care Services. Together they prayed Michael into a place of happiness in heaven.



Bishop Kevin Dunn pictured centre with Sister Mary Francis of the Sisters of the Poor Clares and Brother John Martin, OH outside Poor Clare Abbey in Darlington

We have all been taken aback by the sudden and untimely death of our beloved Right Reverend Bishop Kevin Dunn, who was a great supporter of the mission of the Brothers in his diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. His mother, Cath, brothers and sisters are very much in our prayers at this time.

JOHN TIPPETS: A TRIBUTE BY BROTHER MICHAEL NEWMAN, OH

What qualities make a person truly great? We know that some people are famous for fifteen minutes. I am still waiting for that moment to arrive, but is being famous the same as being great? As we reflect the life of John Tippetts, would you class John as a great man? Did he ever become famous?

John was born in Leicester. At the age of fifteen he was taken to Saint Raphael's Centre at Barvin Park, Potters Bar. There his parents placed him in the care of the Brothers of Saint John of God and their caring staff.

John lived and worked at Barvin Park for over forty years, working in the various workshops and activity centres in the home and helping keep the place clean and tidy. His life was centred on his faith. He went to mass on a daily basis and enjoyed being active in the cycle of the church's year. Hail, rain or shine he joined the Brothers in the small church there. He served at the altar, and sang and played a percussion instrument in the lively choir. He got to know and love the Brothers – knew their strengths and weaknesses, and was able to skilfully adjust to life to cope with the Brothers' good and bad days.

John possessed a phenomenal memory for detail. He knew hundreds of birthdays and claimed to know the birthday of everyone at Saint Raphael's, including those of the Brothers!

Following his move from Saint Raphael's to the Order's residential care home in Hatfield – the Minims, I made many visits there and each time John would ask a dozen questions about each Brother: where they were, how they were doing and "it's his birthday next month isn't it?" "And how is John Tippetts I would ask?" – "Oh him, he's alright."

John Tippetts had a great interest in the royal family and had a one to one conversation with the Queen Mother on her visit to Barvin Park in 1983.

John was under the care of Hospitaller services for exactly for exactly 56 years. This is surely a remarkable and significant achievement. It points to the totality of care and continuity that cannot be matched. John certainly felt that he was part of the Hospitaller family.

In this family that started with Saint John of God in 1537, he received a holistic and loving care from the Brothers and the caring staff that supported him in the big place at Barvin Park and in his own house in Hatfield. It was there in the Minims that he felt 'at home', supported by men who were his companions on the journey for over half a century. They will miss him greatly.

For many, John's life would have seemed so quiet and ordinary, and at time secluded, but perhaps that is where his greatness is to be found. What was remarkable was his fidelity to his Catholic faith, his prayers and to his companions, by making sure that people came first – that people and anniversaries matter. That is why we are saying goodbye to a really great man, one whom we shall often remember and miss so much.

May he rest in peace.
(Tribute read out by Brother Michael Newman, OH at John's requiem mass, December 2007)



A TRIBUTE TO HUGH BENNISON 1924-2007



Hugh Bennison worked for many years as a charge nurse at Saint John of God Hospital in Scorton. He died in August this year. Brother Michael Newman paid tribute to Hugh at his funeral service held at St. Mary's Church at Bolton on Swale in North Yorkshire, September 2007. Below is an abridged version of this tribute.

"The Brothers of Saint John of God wish to express their sincere sadness and their prayers of support to Hughie's family and his friends.

Hughie was a dedicated and conscientious nurse and for many years he gave reliable and dutiful service. He was dependable and highly responsible, and Brothers will remember Hughie as a follower of 'the old school' - a person who had a keen sense of duty and order.

I remember working on his ward and was asked to do a certain procedure. Mr Bennison came to me after I had completed the task, "Now Brother, lets do that again properly!" He showed me patiently how to do the procedure correctly, and he was of course perfectly correct! I will never forget that, and it served me in good stead for my nursing in future years. Yet, he also had the talent to balance those standards of excellence with a deep sense of compassion and in spite of his strong sense of regularity and order – the patient always remained at the centre of his attention.

Today, the values of compassion and hospitality that Hughie displayed are sadly missing from some hospitals and care establishments, as recent reports regrettably confirmed. To be admitted to Saint John of God Hospital under Hughie's professional eye, was a guarantee that you would be cared for, your dignity upheld and that your stay would be a comfortable as possible!

We acknowledge with gratitude his years at Saint John of God Hospital and we now place him with trust and hope, into the embrace of God's eternal love."

Brother Michael Newman, OH
Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God

What did you get for your birthday?



What I got for mine was a phone call from my manager who said two words: 'Bev, Boscombe', with a slight note of desperation in her voice. The newly appointed manager for a new community for the Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Jesus in Boscombe, Bournemouth had given back word. I'd just previously read the advertisement for the manager and thought 'wow, what a fantastic opportunity...!'

Discussions followed with the Sisters of Charity of our Lady Mother of Mercy, for whom I am a Saint John of God Religious Services Manager and their Provincial. The solution was for me to be seconded for six months to work with the Society of Jesus in opening the new house. My journey had begun. I first met with Father Paul Hamill at the end of February in Preston. He was in agreement with the secondment and my contract was signed.

My job was to start on 5th March 2007 in London with a meeting; the first of many. During March I visited some of the Fathers and Brothers who would be the first to take up residence when the house was ready. Assessments of needs were made during these visits, a chance for them to have some input into what they would require to make the transition easier.

In April I moved into my new flat in Boscombe. How strange! I hadn't lived on my own for 28 years. I commuted from home on Monday mornings and returned on Friday nights – a 7 hour journey by train.

The job recruitment process began in April. A whole staff team had to be found: manager, nurses, care assistants, chef, cooks, domestic and laundry

assistants. A whole week of interviews took place at the beginning of May. Sara Hopkins, Susan Kennedy, Father Paul Hamill, Father Michael Barrow and myself made up the interviewing panel. What a daunting lot – luckily we didn't put too many people off! Sister Suzanne Randall, a Sister of Mercy and a registered nurse, accepted the position as manager for the Corpus Christi Jesuit Community, Boscombe, Bournemouth.

In June we waited for the furnishings to arrive and for the builders to finish off the building and hand it over. Also mandatory training had to take place for all the new staff. In July the house was handed over by the builders, however they still had a partial occupation grant – there was a lot of finishing off to do! Frustration, frustration!! The Fathers and Brothers were certainly feeling it, as were the staff and builders. Everyone worked their hardest to prepare the house. The place was overrun with men – builders, engineers, gardeners, electricians, telephone and IT – but NO Fathers or Brothers.

Sister Sue and her staff were unrelenting in their preparations for the house. August was upon us, slowly rooms became ready, belongings started to arrive. The Fathers and Brothers were soon to follow. September had arrived and my contract was coming to an end. The first staff meeting was held followed by the first meal served from the kitchen of the Christi Jesuit Community, Boscombe. This was my farewell lunch. I was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation by Father Michael Barrow on behalf of the Provincial and team of the Jesuit Society, and also an indoor plant from the staff, along with many good wishes. In all honesty, it should have been me presenting them for the fantastic opportunity I had had in being able to be involved in such a project.

I wish everyone that I met and worked with during that time all the very best for the future and look forward to meeting you again.
Bev Walton.

New Beginnings at Boscombe

We are delighted to announce that Corpus Christi Jesuit Community, 757, Christchurch Road, Boscombe, is no longer a building site, but a fabulous home for the Brothers and Fathers who live here. We have made a lot of friends along the road to getting prepared to receive our gentlemen and we've had to wear a few hats (including hard hats!) to get jobs done.

We were so pleased to receive warm and complimentary comments from Father Barrow (Superior) and all the resident Fathers and Brothers. Father Michael Holman, SJ Provincial, stayed with us recently and also praised the caring environment we have created. We have received support and guidance from Sara Hopkins and the Saint John of God Management Team and are grateful for their help and encouragement, which is on-going. Susan Kennedy and Bev Walton have been working alongside us and have helped to develop our team of staff, who were once strangers to each other but are now part of the family.

One of the biggest challenges we have faced here is embracing the technology of the Centre. It is 'high tech' in just about every area. We never take opening a door for granted! And we've been locked out a few times! Some of us feel that we have been transported from the '50s at speed! It is a learning curve that we are starting to mould to and enjoy. Here's to our future development.

Sister Sue Randall, Service Manager
Dawn Eccleston, Deputy and all CCJC Staff





Sabbatical – ‘A Time for Reflection and Growth’.

As part of an international Religious Order we pursue our mission of Hospitality in many countries around the world. After being a Brother for some thirty years I was given an opportunity to take a sabbatical and from September 2006 until April 2007, I spent time with Brothers in the Australasian Province based in Sydney.

The sabbatical was a time for reflection and spirituality, and a time of learning and growth. It also gave me an opportunity to catch up with my own family in Queensland.

My time of reflection and spirituality took the form of a three month residential course run by the Sisters of Mercy at their Centre for Spirituality. Twenty three of us attended the course from ten countries and many Religious Orders. Over three months we looked at the following aspects of spirituality and religious life:- scripture, the Eucharist, the mission of the church, prayer, the mystics, liturgy, the role of the Religious in the church in the light of Vatican 2, ministry and contemporary aspects of theology. The course enabled me to re-visit the reasons why I became a Religious Brother in answer to God's call, but with the emphasis on the religious/spiritual life, rather than the role within the apostolate. To support this we had a weekly spiritual direction and the course ended with an eight day silent retreat.

When the course finished in November, I returned to our community in Burwood for a couple of weeks before heading off to Hervey Bay in Queensland. This was a great time for a rest and catch up time with my family. I spent Christmas and New Year with them and saw new members of the clan. The weather on Christmas day was somewhat warmer than my home town of Hartlepool - thirty two degrees as opposed to five, perfect for a barbeque by

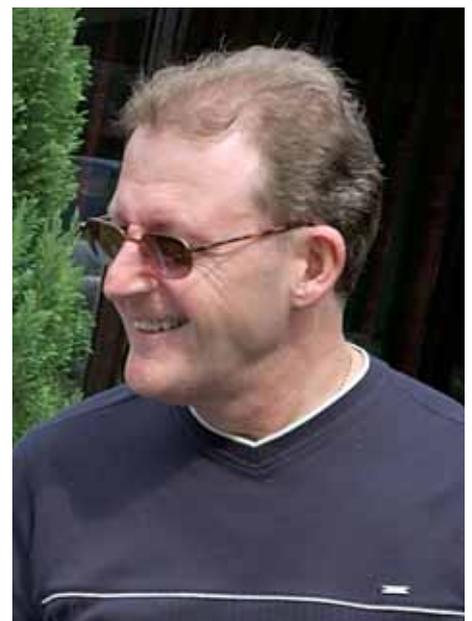
my cousin's pool. After the first mass of Christmas in a packed church, we walked along the oceans edge watching the fireworks.

I returned to the Brothers' community in mid-January in preparation to commence my CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) course at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. The Hospital was founded by a group of Irish Sisters of Charity in the 1880s. My CPE training was based in the hospital's pastoral care and chaplaincy department and was based over 400 hours. This involved visiting patients and working as a pastoral carer/chaplain in the hospital wards, responding to people in crisis situations, opportunities to reflect upon and learn from your experience of ministry with a supervisor and peer group, reflect theologically, bringing into dialogue your experience of God's presence and action in the pastoral visit, and your theological tradition, and finally the opportunity to work alongside other members of the healing team.

The program also provided the opportunity to grow in the knowledge and understanding of one's pastoral role, develop skills that will enable one to become a more effective care giver and deepen one's awareness of each patient's spiritual needs, hopes and resources. The program made you become more aware of ones values, attitude and assumptions.

Brother Mark Morgan O.H.

May the Lord above be with us, to lead and guide us. To give us the strength to walk with those in need. Amen.



Bridget Doogan: New Chief Executive of Saint John of God Hospitaller Services



The Brothers of Saint John of God of the Province of Venerable Bede thank God for the appointment of Bridget Doogan as the new Chief Executive of Saint John of God Hospitaller Services. The Brothers have chosen Bridget for this position because they feel that she is of the same mind as Saint John of God and, like his friend Angulo, will be more than capable of administering and developing the work of the Order in the way John of God would have wished it to be administered.



Brother John Martin and Bridget Doogan

Bridget Doogan took up the position of Chief Executive on 14 January this year. She writes:

As a new year begins and I look to the future, I am so delighted to begin the year by introducing myself, Bridget Doogan, as the new Chief Executive of Saint John of God Care Services.

I was born and brought up in Perth, Scotland where my parents settled when they came over from Ireland in the 1950's. I have four brothers and two sisters and have been lucky to have had the support, fun and challenge of being part of a large extended family. I think ultimately that the values I experienced within this family lie at the heart of the reason I am drawn to Saint John of God Care Services. Hospitality is a way of life for us and most of life's events are met with the offer of a cup of tea and a helping hand.

For the past two years I have worked as Development Manager with the Scottish Health Promoting Schools Unit. Our mission was to work with Health Boards and Local Council Partnership groups to enable them to help schools make a real difference to the health and well-being of children and young people in Scotland. We also worked with National Agencies and the Scottish Government as they developed legislation and policies which would help those at service level to achieve this. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to contribute to this important work.

Prior to joining the unit, I had a career in a wide variety of schools and had been a Primary Head Teacher for fifteen years. I worked in Perth, Spain and Dumfries and Galloway. Working in a leadership role allowed me to develop a wide variety of skills and to be in a position to work with staff, children and parents to develop learning communities, which enhanced the lives of all those who were part of that vision. I also realised the need to develop my skills and during this time, undertook training in counselling and facilitation, which proved invaluable for my work with people. It is great to be coming into a position that will fully utilise and enhance all my skills.

As a leader, I believe in genuine participation and working with all stakeholders to ensure that the services we offer really do meet the needs of those who use them. The importance of listening and good communication is very clear to me and I endeavour to do this wherever possible. In school, we were always telling the children that we have two ears and one mouth for a reason!

Outside my working life my great love is music. I like to sing and play the guitar and am very convinced of the power of music and the positive effect it can have on people. I enjoy travelling to interesting places, the most notable of which has been Alaska and the Yukon in Canada. I am an avid reader and usually have around three books on the go at any one time. This year, I have also set myself the challenge of learning to ski – this is a great test of perseverance for me!

My experiences in my personal and professional life to date have shaped the person I have become. I am a strong believer in social justice and in working to create a society that embraces difference and allows everyone a fair opportunity. I will bring with me this passion for making a positive difference in people lives, which has been the driving force behind my work in schools and with health and education at national level.

I understand that my arrival marks the beginning of a change for Saint John of God Hospitaller Services and I am mostly looking forward to getting out and about to experience the services for myself. I am impressed by what I have read and heard and heartened by the welcome I received from those of you I have already met.

Following my appointment to the post of Chief Executive, Brother John presented me with a wonderful painting which depicts the story of The Good Samaritan. This now hangs on my office wall as a constant reminder of the mission we all have and which I am now privileged to be part of.

I am so excited by the prospect of belonging to an organisation with such an inspirational history, a willingness to move and adapt to meet the challenges of the times but at the same time to stay true to the values and spirit of its founder.

Name Change

Saint John of God Care Services becomes Saint John of God **Hospitaller** Services

After extensive consultation with the Brothers, co-workers and the people who use our services, the Board of Directors have renamed the charity to Saint John of God Hospitaller Services.

The main reason for the change of name is that it was felt that 'Hospitaller', rather than 'Care' better describes the nature of what the charity does. Not all of the people who use our services require care, some require support, and it was felt that care simply does not fully represent everything that we do. Hospitaller is more in keeping with our ethos and values, it responds to the description of the services and to the culture of the charity. Hospitaller is what we are about.

In addition, as we move towards the creation of the new province over the coming months, our new name will bring us in line with Ireland, where the services there are also known as Saint John of God Hospitaller Services.

The change of name will take effect from 1st April 2008.



Saint John of God Hospitaller Services - Scotland

At the beginning of 2007, the Trustees of Saint John of Hospitaller Services commissioned a market research report to investigate how and where to best align our resources for investment with identified unmet need in Scotland. The research was intended to provide quantitative and qualitative information on areas where there may be a requirement for new services. A further aim of the research was to identify other agencies, both public and voluntary sector, that could be considered as delivery partners for Saint John of God in the provision of care and associated services.

The research took place between January and June 2007 and focused around four care client groups:

- Adults with learning disabilities
- Older people in need of care and support
- Adults with mental health problems
- Adults with drug or alcohol problems

The scope of the study was limited to seventeen local authority areas in Central Scotland and was focused around identifying unmet need and potential business opportunities for Saint John of God Hospitaller Services.

The study uncovered two main areas of under-provision:

1. Residential and support services for people with alcohol-related brain damage (ARBD).
2. Residential and support services for people with a co-morbidity of Down's syndrome and dementia.

Other potential areas of unmet need include support and treatment services for young people who misuse drugs and alcohol, and occupational/employment opportunities for people with Down's syndrome.

Housing associations have been identified as the agencies most suited to working in partnership with Saint John of God Care Services. Information on the larger housing associations with most presence in Central Scotland were included in this report.

Main Findings

The lack of appropriate residential and support services for people with alcohol related brain damage was consistently reported across areas and agencies. This finding was further supported by other research studies into the needs of people suffering from this condition.

Gaps in service provision for people with both learning disabilities and Down's syndrome was also recognised by interviewees. There was insufficient data available from other sources to measure the extent of that unmet need. However a clear opportunity was identified in this area.

The Hospitaller Services are now utilising this valuable information to further their investigations into service provision.

Hospitaller Services News

Truck Pull - Balmaclellan

A few months ago a representative from the local village pub, The Oak Tree, fondly called 'The Twig', called to see me at Balmaclellan to advise me that they were going to do another charity truck pull and the proceeds would be going to Balmaclellan and the pre-school children from the village. I was invited to initial meeting at the pub to discuss raffle prizes, etc. This was no mean feat as the days I would walk into a pub to discuss ANYTHING with six burly truck pullers have long gone, however as it would benefit Balmaclellan, I duly attended. The date of the truck pull was to be Sunday 2nd September, kick off or should I say pull off was to take place at 12 noon.

The day arrived, slightly overcast but our steadfast team arrived at Balmaclellan to get the residents ready to face our public. The truck was to be pulled from Catterick Village to the Bridge House Hotel, a fair distance away. The lads all took their places and lifted the rope ready for going. A piper was in place to pipe them out of the village and it was a very party atmosphere. Linda, one of our residents, very ably supported by Ingrid, was asked to 'toot the horn' to get things underway and off they went. Nicky, Anna and Helen decided they would walk to the Bridge Hotel alongside the truck. The residents and the rest of the staff team decided to take the opportunity to have a leisurely drink whilst awaiting the trucks return.

Just over an hour after they left we hear the pipers herald their return. The streets were lined with people shouting encouragement, especially the Balmac bunch, as lo and behold, in the middle of all the pullers was our very own Helen with such a look of concentration on her face. We couldn't decide if the look was because it was really hard work or because of the Adonis in front of her!

All in all it was a very enjoyable few hours. The residents loved it.

A big thank you to everybody who took part. You all have hearts of gold.

Shirley Winn
Service Manager, Balmaclellan



Dalby View

Dalby View's summer fete held on 25th October was a great success. Despite a late date for a summer event, the sun shone and the temperature was mild. Far better than the 'summer' itself – a good choice of date! There were activities of all kinds - various stalls: bric-a-brac, clothes, cakes, pies; tombola, face-painting and a bouncy castle, enjoyed by the children, and some of the staff! Thank you to residents, parents, the staff team, the volunteers from Kirklevington and the Blue Watch from Coulby Newham who brought along a fire engine for anyone to have a climb in and sound the horn (I did particularly enjoy that!). Also many thanks to Tesco for providing cream teas.

We raised just over £400 which is fantastic for our service. Both the residents and the staff team are now thinking up more ideas of what to do next.



Lesley and Merice, together, celebrate 55 years of service

Lesley Robinson, Assistant Regional Manager for the Northern Region has worked for the Order for thirty years and has had a variety of roles in the Order beginning as a nurse at Saint Cuthbert's Hospital in Hurworth. She later became Service Manager at Lindisfarne Court, Pastoral Care Officer and Area Manager. Merice started work in the laundry at Saint John of God Hospital twenty-five years ago and then later worked in house-keeping. Merice continues to offer practical support for the Provinciate. The Provincial, Brother John Martin, presented a gift and flowers to Lesley and Merice and paid tribute to their longstanding and excellent service to the Order.



Cuthbert's Close, Bradford

Last summer heralded the first summer holiday that two residents from Cuthbert's Close had had for many years due to being housed in an acute learning disability/mental health inpatient unit prior to moving to Saint John of God Care Services. 3 & 4 Cuthbert's Close is a service for people that demonstrate behaviour that challenges. Peter and Michael holidayed near Bridlington by the sea in Yorkshire, supported by three members of staff, Andrew, Ginny and Edward.

This is Andrew's account of the holiday

A Weekend Retreat by Andrew McCann

'Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgement will be surer...'

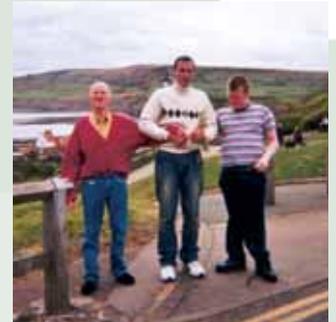
Leonardo da Vinci

Rest and relaxation benefits everyone. Alas, many vulnerable people who have been institutionalised have not always had the opportunity to experience the positive mental elixir a change from their everyday surroundings can bring. Contemporary methods of care are not only about well-being. They are concerned with giving service users new outlets and pushing hitherto seemingly impenetrable barriers in order to 'normalise', as far as is practicable, lifestyles and adventures.

This year myself and two colleagues had the chance to bring the novelty of holidaymaking into the lives of two of the people who use our services. Planning a break for clients with significant challenging needs has to take account of the specific problems it is possible to encounter. Every detail, from the location of the accommodation to the formulation of daily activities must be considered with an awareness of the challenging characteristics of those who hope to gain from the holiday. Moreover, the destination should be local to allow the people using the services to adjust.

After some deliberation, we decided to book a short self-catering break in the small East Yorkshire village of Rudston. This delightful little place, in the heart of the Yorkshire Wolds, is famous for its monolith, believed to be the tallest of its kind in England. It is also one of the older inhabited settlements in the country as well as being the birthplace of feminist writer and journalist, Winifred Holtby. The accommodation, a farmhouse approximately a mile from the village centre, was an ideal location for two service users accustomed to living on the edge of a major city. Surrounded by rolling fields and woodland, this gem of rusticity was one of the most peaceful places our service users had ever visited. The spacious layout of the house and the fabulous gardens were amazing – a veritable paradise for people used to the cathartic nature of life in a secure unit.

With only two days available for the holiday, the emphasis was very much centred on maximising activities. On the afternoon of the first day our fellow travellers enjoyed a trip to the nearby seaside resort of Bridlington. From my experience of working in this profession there is always something about seeing the ocean that excites service users. This occasion was no exception. During our trip we gave the two gentlemen the chance to savour the traditional pleasures of the English seaside: fish and chips, ice-cream, a ride along the promenade and a



stroll along the beach were principal highlights of the day. These may sound fairly mundane to you or me, but to people with lives limited by the constraints their own conditions impose upon them, they are energising and stimulating experiences.

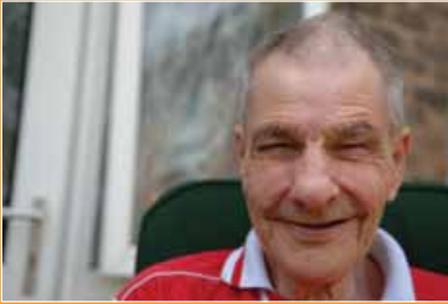
On the second day we ventured to the historic port of Whitby. Departing after breakfast allowed us to cover as much of the region as we could. Our first port of call was Robin Hood's Bay – a settlement barnacled onto the steep cliffs of the North Yorkshire coast, where the term 'retro' doesn't quite conceptualise the atmosphere. This is truly a piece of 19th century England (albeit with 21st century prices!). We looked at the quaint houses and shops, drove past the small harbour and took photographs with Peter and Michael.

Whitby, famous for its abbey and the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula, provided the first real opportunity for Michael and Peter to walk a considerable distance. The enjoyment of consuming fish and chips, the previous evening had not dulled their desire to munch through another gargantuan portion of fried haddock, mushy peas and chips the thickness of scaffolding poles. With bellies filled with the fishermen's finest, we ambled around the narrow streets and charming shops of the old town, purchasing goodies galore for the two, by now, extremely contented service users.

We returned to Rudston using a circuitous route in order to see as much of this part of Yorkshire as we could. We stopped at Goathland, location for the Heartbeat series, passed by the haunting spectre of the Fylingdales listening station, and meandered through the untamed scenery of the North Yorkshire Moors before returning to our picturesque retreat. That evening we assembled in the garden to absorb the tranquillity of our surroundings. We thought it would be a fitting conclusion to what had been a successful mini-break. Interacting with nature – even in the context of sitting amongst the colourful flowers and wild grasses of a stunning country garden – proved to be a heady tonic for all concerned.

Our holiday was in some ways an experiment to assess the enjoyment of our clients. Based on the successful outcome of our two days away, it is certainly something that will increasingly feature in the calendar in the months and years ahead.

The Pastoral Care of Sick, Elderly People



Every period in history has its own forms of poverty and the Church has always tried to encourage solidarity, and it is precisely charity-love that has given a fresh impetus to the faith and a new face to the Church, and still continues today to emphasize the fact that everyone, including the elderly and the aged, have their place and their usefulness within the Christian community.

Brother Donatus Forkan OH

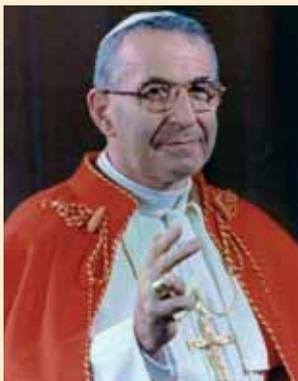
The pastoral care of elderly, sick people was the theme of the XXII International Conference organised by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Health Care. This wonderful event was held at the Vatican from 15th to 17th of November 2007.

The Province of Saint Bede wanted to be part of this important occasion, knowing that we have experiences that would add colour and texture to an already beautiful tapestry created by those dedicated to caring for and supporting the sick and frail around the globe. Our Provincial, Brother John Martin OH, asked Sara Hopkins, Susan Kennedy, Bev Walton, Shirley Winn, Brenda Brown, Brother Stanislaus, Brother Robert, and Brother Mark to attend. Brothers Hugh and Benedict from the Irish Province joined the English contingent.



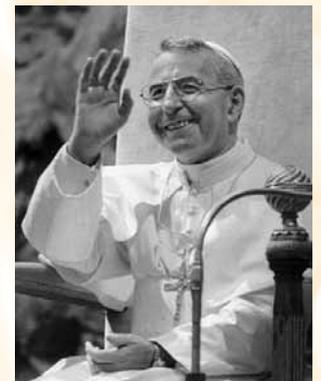
Speakers included professors and directors of international institutes dedicated to geriatric and gerontological sciences, internationally renowned health-care professionals and theologians. Amongst those who were invited to address the delegates of the conference was the leader of a Gospel-based movement which has been at the forefront of alleviating the suffering of some of the most vulnerable and fragile men and women around the world for almost five-hundred years: Brother Donatus Forkan OH, Prior General.

Brother Donatus spoke of the many, great witnesses of God's faithful love he encountered as a young person growing up in Ireland - men and women who devoted years caring for their elderly parents or neighbours. He drew the delegates' attention to the reverence and care shown to the elderly in Korea where he spent so many years as a young Brother. In conclusion, the Prior General told the stories of those who form part of our Church's collective memory and whose example still stirs up a response within those seeking to walk in the path of Jesus with greater fidelity. He spoke of Saint John of God, Blessed Jeanne Jugan, Saint Cammillus de Lellis, Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and a number of other men and women whose pioneering efforts have transformed the world's understanding of what is needed if it is to properly support and care for the frail elderly. It was said of these saintly men and women that they had hearts as big as the ocean!



"Tell the young it is not only those in Heaven and in pictures on the walls of churches and houses who are saints, but also all the faithful who love the Lord with a strong commitment."

Albino Luciani (later Pope John Paul I) - Women's Youth Congress on 1 October 1963



The First Hospitaller Mission Week

15th – 21st October 2007

Theme: Hospitality: Annunciation and Cooperation

"A waking to love is essentially an interpersonal chain. The awakened Jesus awakens others, and then those awoken still others. In this way, communities are built up, traditions developed, and the revelation of Jesus is passed from generation to generation. This might be one of the meanings of the word 'evangelization.' Evangelisation happens when awakened people awaken others to their 'Child of God' identity."

John Shea: 'On earth as it is in Heaven'

During this special week of prayer and joint reflection, Brothers, co-workers and friends called to mind with great gratitude all the missionary Brothers, Sisters and co-workers, who left and leave their homes in order to pass on the Good News of the Gospel, particularly by practicing Hospitality. The week gave us a chance to pray for them, and to revive the spirit of Saint John of God and of the early Brothers who left everything to seek out needy people wherever they were, even far from their own lands. They became Hospitality travellers. These few days gave us a chance to feel part of a universal family which spreads beyond the confines of any particular centre, Province or country. We look forward to next year's celebration!

Therefore, as has often been said, missionary commitment remains the first service that the Church owes to humanity today to guide and evangelize the cultural, social and ethical transformations; to offer Christ's salvation to the people of our time in so many parts of the world who are humiliated by 'endemic poverty, violence and the systematic denial of human rights'

HH Benedict XVI – World Mission Day



A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your hard work and generosity during Hospitaller Missions Week. With the money raised through our readers of the Hospitaller newsletter and fundraising activities within the services and head office of Saint John of God Care Services, we successfully raised over £2,500. This fantastic amount of money, which was raised so quickly, has been sent to Rome and will be given out to our Brothers who work in the Missions.

It is anticipated that the Hospitaller Missionary Week will become an annual appeal so please keep an eye out for up and coming dates and events.



Brother Donatus Forkan OH, Prior General, invites co-workers from around the world to form part of the General Government of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God



The Order is made up of Brothers and co-workers, united in the charism, in the spirituality and in the mission of the Order. Each one of us has our own vocation: the Brothers with their

religious consecration, the co-workers with their secular life, but all together in terms of Hospitality. Many of our co-workers live hospitality as part of their Christian commitment, and others are committed to the Order through professional work performed well. At all these levels all of them form part of our beloved Order, the Hospitaller Family.

On the 2nd and 3rd April 2007 in Rome, an historic event took place. It was the very first time that the Brothers, charged with the general administration and leadership of the Order have been joined in Council by co-workers from around the world. This new Council made up of the Order's Leadership Team and specifically chosen co-workers is now called the Enlarged General Definitory. This Council will meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

The Superior General and his Council view this as a natural development in the relations that have been established between the Brothers and co-workers, which has been increasingly more highly developed across time. The role of co-workers in the mission has been amply

John of God would have no problem in handing over the running of a hospital or centre to the co-workers. This would free the Brother to go to the fish markets of these post-modern, wealthy, industrialised countries of the South – the railway stations and the underpasses where so many homeless and chronically mentally ill people live, caught up in addictions and so on.'

Brother Pierluigi Marchesi

acknowledged by the Order. Without the co-workers the Order's missionary capacity would be decidedly weaker than it is, for they dedicate their lives and their talents to taking forward the Order's common mission.

It is hoped that as members of the General Government both Brothers and co-worker members will continue to further bind this relationship of Brother and co-worker and seek to deepen the understanding of the roles of the Brothers and co-workers, as complementing each other, jointly fostering a greater awareness of the urgency of the mission to which all of them are actively committed. This will entail a promotion of a joint formation programme, which will lead to acquiring a shared vision of the future of our mission.

This new initiative means that decisions made at the highest level within the Order will benefit

from the experience and insights of men and women wholly integrated into the contemporary world. It is hoped that this will be able to promote ideas and new forms of ministry which meet the real needs of the people, consistent with the Hospitaller tradition.

The Enlarged General Definitory has a mandate to be innovative, creative and professional in the way they respond to people's needs, particularly those who have been abandoned or marginalised by society. The whole Order - Brothers, co-workers, those who use our services and their families, are invited to look to this new team for creative leadership, guidance and inspiration.

The co-worker members of the Enlarged General Definitory are: Mrs Brigid Butler, Mrs Rina Monteverdi, Mrs Susana Queiroga, Mr George Kammerlocher, Dr Adolf Inzinger and Dr Xavier Pomés.

Brother Donatus in his welcoming address thanked in particular, our women co-workers. He said, "You bring with your sensitivity, understanding and empathy into the environments where we work, all qualities that are extremely necessary when dealing with vulnerable and sick people. They are fundamental qualities in the exercise of Hospitality, as was practised by Saint John of God."



It is a great honour to a member of the enlarged General Council. Together with my five European colleagues, I attended the first two day meeting in April 2007. During those two days, presentations were made by the various members of the Commissions established to implement the General Government Programme and the timetable for 2006-2012. We discussed the priorities approved by the 2006 General Chapter and the central themes and strategies to be implemented by the General Government. The two day meeting provided us with a very detailed picture of the tasks in hand and of the work that we, as the members of the Enlarged Definitory, would be involved in. It was an exciting two days as we got to know each other with the help of our wonderful interpreters.

The real work for us began in October 2007 when we came together for a further two days. At the request of Brother Donatus Forkan OH, Prior General, we began discussions on the major challenges facing the Order at the present time and how best to respond to those challenges. The discussion was interesting, wide and varied and drew on our individual unique experiences within the Order. We reached agreement quite quickly on the challenges and solutions. I undertook to develop the general points and to make a presentation at the Provincials' meeting in November. On return from Rome I made contact with my colleagues in the Irish and English Provinces and I am very grateful for the time colleagues from the English Province gave to preparing a response. Thank you all those who participated! The presentation, which was entitled A New Story in an Ancient Culture, highlighted the two key challenges as the declining number of Brothers and the potential impact on the mission to the future and the challenge of responding to new and emerging needs, to the most marginalised.

I look forward to our continuing work this year and will send you news of same through the year.

Wishing you all a very happy and successful 2008.

Brigid Butler, Director, Programme Development, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

Tapping into the source!



" I lived in modest lodgings here at the top of Elvira Street from the time of my arrival in the city in 1538 until January 20th 1539. On that fateful day I followed a crowd down Elvira Street, across the Plaza Nueva and up to the Cuesta Los Gomeles, to the heights of the Alhambra and the Hermitage of the Martyrs....."

From 'Welcome to my Granada' by Brother Brian O'Donnell, OH

We are all so familiar with his story. We know what happens next. John the bookseller listens to a sermon, then madness..... running, racing, shouting, jeering, falling, fear, panic..... The Royal Hospital...and here the real story begins.....John the bookseller's story has intrigued and inspired men and women down the centuries to this present day!

Following our Provincial Chapters last year in 2007, both the Brothers in England and in Ireland agreed that it was time to work toward forming one new Province and that this new Province would be formed in 2010.

It was also agreed that to assist the process the Brothers needed to return to the source of our foundation to walk in the footsteps of our founder, Saint John of God, in Granada, Spain.

So four hundred and sixty eight years after John of God climbed the steep hillside to the Hermitage of the Martyrs, twelve of his followers, Brothers from Ireland and England gathered in Granada in Spain in early September to listen afresh to his story and to visit the many places associated with the Saint.

Brother John Martin and Brother Laurence Kearns, the Provincials from England and Ireland attended and Brother Luis from Ireland facilitated a programme of prayer, reflection, and visits throughout the city to the places that were so familiar to John of God.

No better place then to begin our time in Granada than to make our way up the slopes of the Alhambra to the site of the Hermitage of the Martyrs. There is nothing left of the Hermitage today. This is what John found there when he arrived on that cold January day in 1539.

" I remember a big crowd had gathered. I prayed in the church, and then found as good a position as I could near the pulpit where Father Juan de Avila would preach. I listened and found myself running from the Alhambra Heights back to Elvira Street to my lodgings. I would give away all my belongings. A crowd followed me shouting that I had gone mad....."

'Welcome to my Granada' by Brian O' Donnell. O.H.

As we began our time in Granada there was an atmosphere of prayer, reflection and genuine listening as we spoke of our concerns and joys at the forming of a new Province. A sense of new energy and confidence for the future became evident and each Brother was aware of this.

When our time in Granada came to a close and we returned to our communities in England and Ireland, the sharing that began for us in Granada has continued with Brothers visiting various communities in both Ireland and England. In recent weeks we had the privilege of welcoming Brothers Stanislaus, Mark and John to our community in Saint Mary's, Drumcar for a few days following a joint Brothers' Assembly in Dublin.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless us as we work towards forming our new Province and that the energy and confidence we found in Granada will remain with us into the future.

Brother Barry Larkin. O.H.



The Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill

We publish the following article in the light of the last General Chapter's recommendations that the Hospitaller Order takes seriously the challenges of good practice and the Church's teaching on ethics. Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff, in conjunction with Professor David Jones of St Mary's University College London, have prepared the following text setting out the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding key issues contained in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which was introduced in the House of Lords in November 2007 and is to be debated in the House of Commons in the Spring of 2008.

What is the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill?

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill is a proposal for a new law on infertility treatment and experimentation on human embryos. This includes embryonic stem cell research.

What are the key concerns about this Bill?

The Bill will allow scientists to create embryos that are half human, half animal. For example, an embryo could be made from the egg of a woman and sperm from an animal. The new creation is called a hybrid.

At present, infertility clinics have to consider the 'need of a child for a father'. The Bill will remove the reference to a father. The Bill will also make it easier to use women as surrogate mothers. The Bill does not recognise the natural right of the child to a mother and a father.

At present, decisions are made by an unelected and unrepresentative body. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority appear to exclude people who cherish human life from conception. The government should be urged to create a statutory National Bioethics Commission with a clear mandate bringing together a broad spectrum of experts including people from faith communities.

Why should the Church become involved?

Christians ought to be involved in the debate because the Bill touches fundamental issues that concern us all – what it means to be human, our identity, and in the longer term our freedoms and rights. We see with many kinds of technology, from nuclear power through to genetic manipulation, that to truly harness the benefits of science we need to set developments within a social and moral framework. Science should serve humanity; humanity does not exist to provide raw material for research.

Does the Church Support Scientific Research?

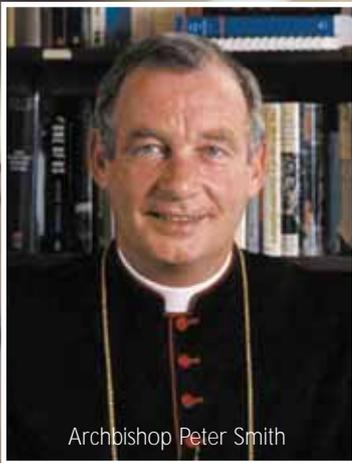
The Church welcomes and supports ethical and effective scientific research. This is essential to the progress of medicine. Jesus our Lord came as one who serves and to heal the sick. The Church is committed to the care of the sick and the ministry of healing. Healthcare, medicine and medical research are Christian vocations.

Is Stem Cell Research Ethical?

Adult stem cell research is both ethical and effective. Currently it is used in more than seventy therapies, and new therapies are being tested in more than eight hundred clinical trials. In contrast embryonic stem cell research is not ethical. It involves destroying human embryos. It is also important to note the embryonic stem cell research has not yet generated any therapies. At least so far, it is the ethical stem cells (adult stem cells) that have also been the effective stem cells. Whenever you see any new report of success in stem cell therapy you should always ask; are these adult (ethical) stem cells, or are they embryonic (unethical) stem cells?

Does the Bill affect the law on abortion?

Currently the Bill does not refer to abortion and, as it stands, it would not affect the abortion law. However, some Members of Parliament have already said that they want to amend the law to make abortion more easily available. There are also moves to set up a Parliamentary committee to look at abortion law reform. If the law on abortion is re-examined then those who recognise the humanity of the unborn child must speak out. Any change in the law must aim to make abortion more difficult.



Archbishop Peter Smith

If we cannot hope for more than is effectively attainable at any given time, or more than is promised by political or economic authorities, our lives will soon be without hope. It is important to know that I can always continue to hope, even if in my own life, or the historical period in which I am living, there seems to be nothing left to hope for.

How can we respond to any change in the Bill?

As the Bill progresses, there will be new amendments. These may introduce the question of abortion or they may touch on other important issues. The Bishop's Conference is setting up a webpage to provide up to date information and links and to respond to frequently asked questions about the Bill. The web address for these resources is www.catholicchurch.org.uk

Is the new Bill likely to become law?

Yes, this Bill is very likely to become law. The Bill was included in the Queen's Speech. This means that the government is committed to bring it into law. The government has the power to push it through because it has a large majority in Parliament.

Is there any point in taking action?

Yes, because the details will be debated by Parliament, and MPs will be able to propose amendments. The final outcome will depend on how MPs vote and on how the public expresses its views. A key aim of government is to 'promote public confidence' in reproductive technologies and to 'maintain public trust' in embryo research. In other words the governments want to build a consensus on these issues. If lots of people speak out and speak out very strongly on one or other of these issues, then there is a real chance that the government will think again. If he wishes, the Prime Minister can give Labour's MPs a free vote of conscience on the Bill.

Who should get involved?

Everybody! The Church is a body in which some feel especially called to commit themselves to particular kinds of social action, whether local, national, or international, whether concerned with alleviating physical or spiritual distress, promoting peace, or working for a better future. Within the Church many men and women have committed themselves especially to justice for unborn children and to support for women who are pregnant and may feel pressure to have an abortion.

What action can I take?

Is there someone at work or in the parish, perhaps a healthcare professional or someone concerned with life issues, who can act as an organiser for action on the Bill?

Writing to your local MP

There are few things more effective in persuading government and Parliament to act, or not to act, than writing a letter or an email to your local MP. Letters from constituents in their own words are taken very seriously by MPs, especially if very many people write on the same issue.

Who is my MP and what address should I use?

You can find out the name of your MP online: www.parliament.uk/people/index.cfm Or by phone at the House of Commons Information Office: 020 7219 4272 You can always write to you MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Or email your MP at www.writetothem.com

What should I write?

Letters are most effective when they are written in your own words and express what you are most concerned about. An effective letter will not cover too many points. Even though there are many points of concern in this Bill, you do not have to cover all of them. The most important thing is to write in your own words about what concerns you, and to get as many people as possible to write.

Organising a meeting:

Whoever takes on the role of organiser could hold a meeting and perhaps show the DVD on stem cell research that is available from the Bishop's Conference Centre. (Web address for resources: www.catholicchurch.org.uk). You could also invite someone to speak on the Bill. If it is not possible to find someone to speak, it would still be worth having an open meeting and talking about what you could do as a community.

Making links with other groups

The Church does not exist in isolation from the world but is in the world and in dialogue with others. If you are arranging a meeting, you should consider inviting members of other Christian Communities and member of other faiths. In the meeting is public, it could be advertised locally. The issues that the Bill covers are not only of concern to Catholics. On the issue of hybrids you could make links with environmental groups. If people are unhappy about genetically modified tomatoes, they should be made aware of the proposal in the bill to allow the creation of genetically modified human embryos.

Responding to articles in newspapers and other media

As well as writing to your MP, it can be very helpful to respond to the reporting of stories in the media. People can be encouraged to respond to stories that appear in the papers, on television, or on the internet. The media have a powerful role in shaping public opinion but the media also reflect public opinion. Once science journalist told Parliament the 'the public' do not really care about half human, half animal 'hybrids'. He believed this because he did not get many letter on the subject. If you do not respond to the media, then people in the media will assume that you are indifferent. Also, if you do have a letter published in a newspaper or if you put a comment on the internet, then it may encourage someone who reads it to act and may make someone think about the issues in a new way.



The following article has been re-produced by kind permission of the Editor of the Catholic Herald. Bishop McMahon challenges us to question the ethics involved in the latest Human and Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, thus echoing the challenge presented to us Hospitaliers by Brother Donatus Forkan, OH our Prior General.

Speaking out strongly against the embryology Bill, Brentwood Bishop urges campaigners to keep fighting

A Catholic Bishop has braved the taunts of hecklers to encourage hundreds of pro-life activists to oppose moves to make abortion easier. Bishop Thomas McMahon of Brentwood spoke at a rally against the Human and Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in London. He said he wanted to give a 'message of endorsement' to campaigners opposed to the Bill that proposes the creation of animal-human hybrids for experimentation, so-called "saviour siblings" for donor tissue for sick children and the abolition of the requirement of IVF doctors to have regard to the need of a child for a father.

Bishop McMahon told the gathering in Methodist Central Hall that "together we must be a prophetic voice to say 'no' to the creation of life in the laboratory purely for research. We must say 'no' to the harvesting of tissues from reject embryos," he said. "We say 'no' certainly to the mixing of both human and animal genes, which fills most people with a natural revulsion. We also say 'no' to those who want to use this Bill to make abortion even more available. We say 'no' to committees that exclude people because of their pro-life views. We must protest against the idea that a father be removed from law or even being named on the birth certificate. Finally we must press strongly for a national bioethics committee to control scientists."

He added that there were many people 'with or without faith' who held human life to be sacred. "Together we must not allow the unthinkable to become the acceptable and then accepted in our society," he said.

The Westminster rally was held just days after the HFE Bill completed its passage through the House of Lords without a single pro-life amendment being accepted. It was picketed by scores of placard-waving Socialist Workers' Party activists who booed and chanted slogans at people as they arrived. Some attempted to obstruct the entrance to the hall and had to be held back by police officers. A small but vocal number of others gained access to the meeting which they continually tried to disrupt.



Bishop Defies Hecklers at Pro-Life Rally

Lord Alton of Liverpool, the first speaker, was subjected to a torrent of invective after he raised the prospect of some MPs seeking to make access to abortion even easier. The meeting erupted into near chaos when he showed images of aborted babies. Some of the protesters set off rape alarms and began to chant and scream so he could not be heard. Some were escorted out by stewards but others clung to their seats and continued to shout at speakers for the duration of the meeting.

The rally was also addressed by Tory MPs Ann Widdecombe, Edward Leigh and David Burrowes, by Dr Peter Saunders of the Christian Medical Fellowship, and by Labour MPs Jim Dobbin and Geraldine Smith. The speakers urged the audience to alert people to the urgent need to lobby their MPs to vote against the Bill. In the first signs of a backbench rebellion against the Bill, Mr Dobbin, the Labour MP for Heywood and Middleton, told the meeting he would be willing to oppose the Government. "If there is no free vote accorded by the Government I will be voting against this Bill," said Mr Dobbin, the chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group.

The former microbiologist said he stood for "ethical science that protects the dignity of human beings and does not seek to use human life as raw material". He said he would be meeting the Prime Minister to discuss a free vote after the February recess, adding that "some of my colleagues in the Cabinet are going to do the same".

Catholic Cabinet Ministers such as Transport Secretary, Ruth Kelly, Welsh Secretary, Paul Murphy, Defence Secretary, Des Browne and the Northern Ireland Minister, Paul Goggins are known to be deeply unhappy about the contents of the Bill.

If any of them defied a three-line whip they would at the least be expected to resign from the Cabinet. Miss Kelly and Mr Goggins have already met Geoff Hoon, Labour's chief whip, to request that voting restrictions are removed from much of the Bill. Labour sources say three Labour whips – Tommy McAvoy, Tony Cunningham and Frank Roy, all of whom are Catholics – also have serious ethical problems with some of the contents of the Bill.

The legislation completed its passage in the House of Lords last week and could arrive in the House of Commons at any time after February 25. The Government imposed a three-line whip on Labour peers for each vote, ensuring the failure of all six attempts to amend the Bill by Lords opposed to it. The Tories permitted free votes, as did the Liberal Democrats with the exception of the fatherlessness provision. Normally, three-line whips are used only on key issues, such as when the Government faces a vote of no-confidence or a vital loss of tax revenue if a Bill is overturned. So far, the Government intends to allow a free vote only on abortion, a traditional issue of conscience which does not feature in the Bill. The legislation will provide MPs with the first opportunity to amend the 1967 Abortion Act in 18 years.

Some MPs want to lower the upper time limit from 24 to 20 weeks, but pro-abortion MPs are preparing a raft of amendments to further liberalise the 1967, a law which is already considered one of the most permissive in the world.





Saint John of God Migrant Worker Project

SUPPORTING NEWLY ARRIVED HOMELESS MIGRANTS

From the beginning the mission of Jesus, who came to bring good news to the poor, has been, to use a modern term, a collaborative ministry. Chapter 8 of Luke's Gospel holds this truth perfectly: 'Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.' Luke 8: 1-3

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God has, by necessity, always worked in partnership with other like minded men and women. This is in fact part of the patrimony left us by our beloved founder, Saint John of God. We have never doubted that 'we can do so much more together in partnership, than we could ever do alone'. Our Migrant Worker Project is not only a wonderful example of our Order's willingness to collaborate with others but is also an example of our willingness to embrace a way of working, that can only enrich the experience of this service for the destitute migrant who seeks our support.

The Saint John of God Migrant Worker Project, borne out of a concern for one of the poorest groups of people in the country, is a work that brings together the expertise, commitment and spirit of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, The Passage Day Centre for the Homeless - (a foundation of the Daughters of Saint Vincent de Paul) and the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God.

The Poor Servants of the Mother of God have shown incredible generosity. They are an international group of Catholic women who share a life commitment to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate God. In the spirit of Frances Taylor, their foundress, they are committed to actively listening to the Gospel. They spend their lives in the service of the poor and vulnerable. This commitment to the poor and vulnerable has led them to lease to us a very large property in the heart of London, to pay the costs of its refurbishment (which are considerable) and to provide for the projects start up costs. We are indebted to them.

The Passage Day Centre for homeless people, founded by the Daughters of Saint Vincent de Paul, is London's largest voluntary sector day centre for homeless people. Under the direction of Sister Ellen Flynn, the Centre supports more than 200 homeless and vulnerable men and women each day. Those who choose to enter its programme have the help they need with regard to resettlement and rehabilitation. This Centre includes help with housing, literacy and numeracy,



mental and physical health, and physical health care is provided by a Personal Medical Care Service (PMCS) funded by the NHS. The Centre operates a 48-bed emergency hostel called 'Passage House', which was officially opened on 1 March 2000. For the past five years the management team at the Day Centre have also run 'Montfort House', which contains 16 self-contained studio flats with staff support on site for those preparing for independent living.

The Order's Migrant Worker Project is now taking shape. This is as a result of our partnership with these two highly experienced groups, the commitment and passion for this new ministry shown by our Provincial, Brother John Martin, OH (without whom this project would never have begun), the painstaking work of Mr Neville O'Neill, a co-worker, Pat Cowley, Regional Manager of the Southern Region, Brother John of God O'Neill OH and the support staff operating out of the Provincial Curia on behalf Saint John of God Hospitaller Services. It has been a long haul, fraught with many difficulties, but light has appeared at the end of this tunnel.

Sadly, we are completely dependent on charity in order to run this service. As ever we look to our benefactors to continue to support us as we begin to serve the Lord in the face of the destitute migrant worker in London. We do so with faith and determination, for we walk in the footsteps of our Holy Founder Saint John of God.



Can you help?

There will be many items needed within the hostel such as sets of dining table and chairs, sofas and kettles, and the list goes on. Comfort and practicality are two of the most important issues with regards to furnishing each of the 24 bedrooms. Following our ethos of respect for all, we feel it is very important for the physical and mental well being of the residents that there is a decent level of comfort throughout the hostel. Every penny will be spent on items that have been deemed necessary by our team of highly qualified staff.

- £350 will buy one good quality metal bed
- £90 will buy good one mattress
- £5 will buy a mattress cover
- £150 will buy a locking bedside cabinet
- £70 will buy a pair of good quality curtains
- £10 will be a curtain rail
- £75 will buy set of bedding
- £40 will buy one full set of towels
- £230 will buy one mini fridge

Your gift to this worthy mission of Hospitaller is urgently needed. Please use the enclosed form when sending your donation, remember to complete the Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK tax-payer.





The New Saint Anne's

*'It is God who did everything.
I am only his humble servant.'*

Blessed Jeanne Jugan

The Little Sisters of the Poor have built another 'state of the art' home for the frail and poor elderly in Britain. Their hard work and devotion has paid dividends and this new centre of hospitality will open in the not too distant future.

As an Order, we have always valued our association with the Little Sisters of the Poor – Hospitaller women.

Two saints, both named 'John', had a profound influence on the personality and work of Jeanne Jugan – in Religion: Sister Mary of the Cross. The first was Saint John Eudes (1601 – 1680), a priest from Normandy. He spent most of his life, organising missions in the cities and villages of Normandy and Brittany. Jeanne first heard of him at Saint-Servan. She was 25 and wanted to consecrate her life to God. A priest suggested that she become a member of the Third Order of the Admirable Heart of Mary, founded by Saint John Eudes for lay people. Here, the future foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor received her spiritual formation. Her belonging to this pious society, helped her develop a strong faith and to deepen a personal relationship with Christ and a loving attachment to the Blessed Mother. She learned to follow Jesus in humble confidence to recognise him in the poor.

The second was John of God. After his conversion in 1538, he formed a group of co-workers in Granada to take care of the sick and dispossessed. This group of co-workers eventually became the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God.

One of our Brothers, Brother Claude Marie OH, in the October 1841, whilst begging in Saint-Servan on behalf of the Orders hospital in Dinan, knocked on Blessed Jeanne's door. Jeanne, who was now caring for a number of destitute elderly people explained to Brother Claude why she could not donate anything to Brother Claude's appeal and then shared her own concerns as to how she was going to feed those for whom she was caring. Brother Claude gave Jeanne her first begging basket. Jeanne set out on the road as a beggar for her beloved poor – questing in the manner of Saint John of God. Having established this connection with our Order, Brother Felix Massot OH, Provincial offered Jeanne counsel and helped her to draw up the Constitutions for the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor. It was Brother Massot OH who suggested to Blessed Jeanne that she and her sisters take the fourth vow of Hospitality.



The Little Sisters came to Stoke Newington in 1876 and have given an unbroken service to the elderly since then. In these times with an increasing elderly population, this dedication is more relevant than ever. The work of the Little Sisters is well known and respected in the area. Many, many elderly poor and disabled have been supported over the years and there has always been a waiting list for admission to Saint Anne's.

The Victorian building which provided a home for so many elderly people since 1876 was becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and was not conducive to a refurbishment programme. It was demolished in 2004 to make way for the new Home presently under construct.

The new Saint Anne's will provide:

- 32 en-suite individual rooms, including respite care rooms
- 19 independent living apartments
- Day centre facilities for the elderly of the neighbourhood
- All the necessary ancillary services
- Chapel
- Lounges
- Library
- Shops
- Hairdressing salon
- Arts and crafts
- Concert hall
- Medical suite
- Plenty of storage facilities for residents

Saint Anne's Care home is being re-built entirely to meet the needs of the poor frail elderly of the East End of London. These Sisters of the poor intend to provide the highest quality of care, taking into account the particular conditions associated with the ageing process. They will do this by ensuring that:

- Holistic, quality care is delivered in a supportive and effective manner.
- The independence, dignity and rights of all residents in the home are promoted and maintained.
- A full and on going assessment of the physical, social and psychological needs is carried out for all residents and that each individual plan of care is reviewed and changed according to resident need.
- All residents are encouraged and enabled to live as full a life as possible within the limits of physical and mental abilities.
- The environment and the atmosphere in the building reflect the fact that it is run for the benefit of residents and that it is their home.
- To employ committed and sympathetic staff and provide opportunities for volunteers to assist in our aims.
- To build on their success of over 130 years of caring for the elderly poor of the East End of London and the surrounding areas and to meet increasing demands.
- To continually increase and improve their involvement with the local community, so that residents are stimulated by meeting other groups and especially young people. This benefits all involved.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are dependent on funding, support, goodwill and understanding of other people and organisations to fulfil its vital role in today's society in serving the needs of the disadvantaged, elderly poor and disabled.

Brother John Martin OH, our Provincial made a visit to the site of the new Saint Anne's. He was absolutely delighted with what he saw. The Sisters, vowed to Hospitality, have been a constant source of inspiration to us. As fellow Hospitallers we continue to pray for the success of this new home.



Left to right: Mother Provincial Stephen, Mother Thomas and Daniel Hird, architect

Financial contributions to this wonderful Hospitaller work can be sent to:

**Sister Agnes LSP
SAINT ANNE'S PROJECT
Little Sisters of the Poor
2A Meadow Road,
LONDON, SW8 1QH**

Please make cheques payable to: Little Sisters of the Poor



This verse was reportedly written on the wall of Blessed Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta, India, and is widely attributed to her.

*People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred.
Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.
Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.
Be honest and sincere anyway.*

*What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
Create anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
Do good anyway.*

*Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.
Give your best anyway.*

*In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.*

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhi – Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Holistic Health Care of Elderly Religious – One Day Conference

The Pontifical Council for Health Care Pastoral Workers convened its 22nd international conference in the Vatican last November on the subject of the pastoral care for the elderly, which alerted us to some alarming trends in global statistics. In response to this conference, the Hospitaller Order in England is to hold a conference on Tuesday 10th June 2008 directed to the major religious leaders and diocesan representatives of England and Wales to explore some of the issues raised at the Vatican conference, and to consider how we might address some of the questions and challenges raised by the subject of pastoral care for the elderly.

If you would like further details about this conference, please contact Maggie Bennison at the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God on 01325 373700.



Saint John of God Community Mental Health Centre, Honduras



The Saint John of God Community Mental Health Centre opened at San Pedro Sula, Honduras at the end of 2007.

This is the town's first facility providing psychological and psychiatric care. The Centre will provide external consultation and rehabilitation services. Patients will have psychologists and psychiatrists at their disposal, in addition to nursing staff and social workers to attend to the general needs of persons suffering from stress, depression, anxiety and other mental health problems.

The Brothers from the Mexico and Central America Province went to Honduras in 2000 and began their campaign to build the Centre in 2002. For the construction of the Saint John of God Community Mental Health Centre, they received financial support from the Balearic Islands and Basque authorities in Spain, and from the Municipality of San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Juan Ciudad ONGD organisations belonging to the Order in Spain and the Generalitat Valenciana also participated, with assistance from the Bishop of San Pedro Sula, Mgr Ángel Garachana Pérez, and the Province of Mexico.

Phase 2 of the project will include facilities for inpatient care, emergency treatment, and an administrative building, with a recreation area for the inpatients.



The next Strangers into Citizens March will take place on 5 May 2008 beginning with mass at Westminster Abbey at 11am, followed by a March to Trafalgar Square.

Strangers into Citizens March 5 May 2008





Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

Vocations with the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

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

*'There is a quiet light
that shines in every heart.
Through it is always secretly there,
it draws no attention to itself.
It is what illuminates our
mind to see beauty, our desire to seek
possibility and our hearts
to love life...
This shy inner light is what enables
us to recognise and receive
our very presence here as blessing.'*



If you are single, male and Catholic, and would like to be part of our worldwide movement of Hospitality and do something about the suffering endured by those who are marginalized within our society, then life as a Hospitaller Brother could be worth investigating.

For more information contact:
Brother Barry Larkin, OH
email: vocations@sjog.ie

www.hospitaller.org/vocations