

Our Charism is a gift of the Spirit and leads us to conform ourselves to the compassionate and merciful Christ who went about doing good to all and “healing every kind of disease and infirmity.” (Constitutions)

Our name, Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, expresses our identity, since the reason for our existence is to live and manifest the Charism of Hospitality in the Spirit of Saint John of God.

Saint John of God was a charismatic man: the way he acted attracted the attention of everyone who knew him, and his influence spread well beyond Granada... The Charism and hospitality with which he was enriched has lived on in the men and women throughout time, serving all those who suffer, in the manner of Saint John of God.



The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God Worldwide

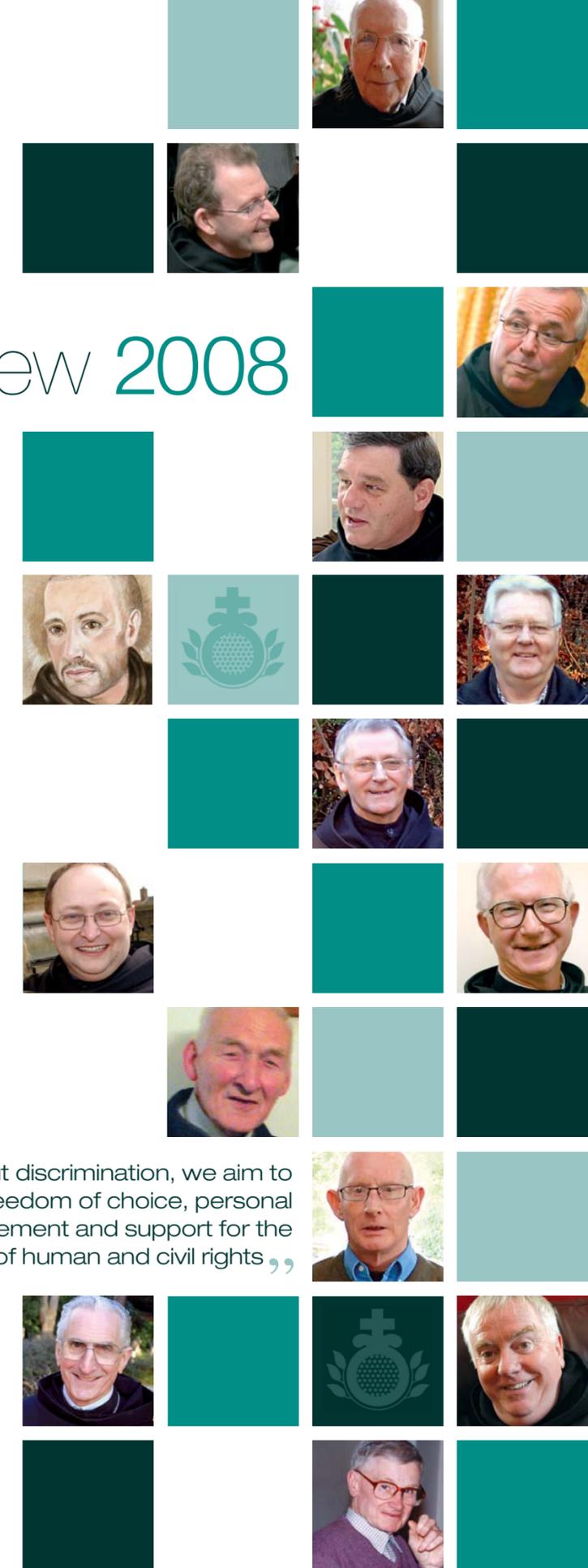
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Annual Review 2008



“Without discrimination, we aim to ensure freedom of choice, personal advancement and support for the exercise of human and civil rights.”



The Essence of Hospitality



"When He called us to be Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God, God chose us to form a community of apostolic life and so it is our desire to live our mission in communion with one another, the love of God and our neighbour. We feel we are all Brothers of mankind and we dedicate ourselves chiefly to the service of the weak and the sick. Their needs and sufferings touch our heart. Our response is to alleviate those needs and sufferings and to work for the personal development and advancement of such people." (Constitution Article 5)

As Hospitaller Brothers we act as guardians of the charism of Saint John of God and whilst we are relatively few in number, strive to keep this charism alive within our Order and within Saint John of God Hospitaller Services.

The following report details the mission of the Brothers in the past year and their work within Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, where, once a new work of Hospitality is founded, it is developed and managed.

Quality Assurance

Providing services of the highest quality is of paramount concern to the Brothers. To achieve this staff are given the opportunity to be actively engaged in on-going education, as a priority. Thorough monitoring of services and listening to those who use the Charity's services is constant.

The proprietor's monthly reported visits as required under Regulation 26 of the National Care Standards are undertaken by the Brothers. These visits are enhanced with an evaluation of each service's progress as to how it reflects the ethos and values of the Hospitaller Order in its everyday practice to ensure that the Order's expectations of quality are satisfied and the National Care Standards' requirements for good practice are met.

Supporting Elderly Religious and Clergy

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God co-operates with numerous Religious Orders and Congregations throughout Great Britain. Many of these Institutions, due to a lack of new recruits, are struggling to provide the care and support needed by their elderly members. Saint John of God Hospitaller Services has created a new service that provides for Religious Orders and Congregations struggling to meet the needs of its elderly and frail members, and provides invaluable support with regard to advice, management of care homes and practical nursing and ancillary support. A number of the Brothers are not only members of the management team of this rapidly developing service, but provide a much-valued pastoral and sacramental presence. Some Brothers offer their services as Trustees on the Boards of some Religious Congregations who require particular skills.

Pastoral Care

The Brothers' presence, within the Services is always welcome and they are, for many of those who need support, seen as members of their own family. Many of those who use the services have done so for more than twenty-five years. The Brothers are a sign of the faithful and continuing care provided by the Hospitaller Order to these men and women. They have befriended many of those who use the Services and are known to be a 'brother' who has time to listen, to support and to advise when his advice is sought. A number of the Brothers are trained counsellors. The Brothers will often make family visits and visit those who use the Hospitaller Services when they are hospitalised.

"Our presence among the sick and those in need is marked by our pastoral commitment and by the zeal with which we emphasise the values of Christian and professional ethics. We act with the greatest respect for the convictions and beliefs of other people; however, bearing in mind that people worn out with suffering and sickness feel their own limitations more deeply and experience the need for greater support, we help them to discover the true significance of human life, principally through the witness of our charity." *Constitutions*

Ethical Presence

Several of our Brothers are members of the Hospitaller Services' Ethics Committee. Others belong to national and international 'ethics in health care' boards. A number of Brothers belong to various local and national boards and 'think tanks' concerned with safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Sacramental Ministry

The Brothers who have been ordained Catholic Priests, offer this Sacramental ministry to those who use the Hospitaller Services in Great Britain and who wish to avail of this form of pastoral care today. These Brothers also provide a much-needed service to local Catholic Parishes due to the shortage of Catholic Priests at this moment in history.



"Attentive to the needs of those who find themselves on the edge of society."

"Without discrimination, we aim to ensure freedom of choice, personal advancement and support for the exercise of human and civil rights."

Mission Statement



Looking ahead...

Responding to New Needs

It is the very nature of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God to be attentive to the needs of those who find themselves on the margins of society at any given time and to address those needs to the best of the Order's ability. Two such situations have recently entered the public domain. The first is the plight of women and children trafficked into the United Kingdom for sexual exploitation. Responding to the needs of this group, some Brothers are either Trustees on the board of The Medaille Trust (founded to offer safe-housing and holistic care to those rescued by law enforcement agencies) or are part of an awareness raising team giving talks and fundraising. The second is that of destitute migrant workers. One Brother is a founding member of the Saint John of God Migrant Worker Service offering short-term accommodation and help to newly-arrived migrants, with no recourse to public funds, so that they are able to find work and a place in society, rather than fall into homelessness.

Creating a New Province

Over the year, progress has been made in forming a new Province of the Order that will incorporate the Provinces of Ireland and Great Britain. As this develops, the possibilities are unfolding and we believe both Provinces and the ministries carried out by both Provinces will be enriched. The new Province will be formed at the next Provincial chapter in 2010.

As I bring my report to a close for 2007-2008, I am delighted with what our Brothers have been able to achieve.

For us we know it is through the Grace of God that all this Hospitaller work is possible. We are of course, indebted to our benefactors and to the professional men and women who enable the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God Charitable Trust and Saint John of God Hospitaller Services to continue to develop the care and support it gives to so many men, women and children in Great Britain, by building on the experiences of the past, so as to look to the future with hope.

John Martin, OH - Provincial
Hospitaller Order of Saint John, Province of the Venerable Bede

Leadership

A number of the Brothers hold the office of Trustee and are responsible for the on-going development of Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, ensuring that it provides the most appropriate support to those who use its services throughout Great Britain. Through due diligence the Trustees ensure that Hospitaller Services operates in a professional and transparent manner, carrying out all that it does to the highest standards expected by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, who have been pioneers in health care throughout Europe and further a field, for almost five hundred years.

Institute of Hospitality

A number of the Hospitaller Brothers are key members of the Institute of Hospitality, which has been founded to promote the values,

"compassion, hospitality, justice, respect and trust"

philosophy and ethos of the Hospitaller Order across the Province and is involved in developing a better understanding of the mission and spirituality of Hospitality within Hospitaller Services. The Institute oversees the induction of new staff, charismatic management, training and professional development as well as the Order's standpoint on ethical issues.

Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation.

Trustees

Brother John Martin, OH, BSc Hons, DipSW (Chair)

Brother Robert Moore, OH, MCSP (Deputy Chair)

Brother Stanislaus Neild, OH, MA, RGN

Brother John O'Neill, OH

Mr Tony Foy



The full annual financial statements, on which the auditors have given unqualified opinion, were approved on 11th November 2008 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission. A copy of these can be obtained from Karen Gilroy at the principal address shown on the back cover of this document.

The Brothers' work touches the lives of many vulnerable people; help us to reach out to more.

Please support the Brothers' work to develop new works and enhance and expand our current services to help those who need our support.

