



# News from the Generalate

6<sup>th</sup> Year, No 1

Congregation of Holy Cross

January 2009

## General Council

The General Council met January 9-13 in Rome; all members were present. Among items considered were the following:

--Review and approval of the October 2008 & November 2008 General Council meeting minutes, and the November 2008 Council of the Congregation meeting minutes;

--Determined the number of *ex-officio* delegates to the 2010 General Chapter and designated the number of delegates/alternates to be elected to the 2010 General Chapter by the 2009 provincial/vicariate chapters;

--Approved questions to be posed by the Superior General for discussion by the 2009 provincial and vicariate chapters around three areas of concern identified by the Council of the Congregation: the International Mission of Holy Cross, Questions Concerning General Governance, and matters related to Our Identity as Holy Cross Religious;

--Review and approval of the general visitation reports for the Province canadienne de la Congrégation de Sainte-Croix, the District d'Acadie, the Midwest Province, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, and the St. Joseph Province;

--Reviewed the one-year progress reports on the general visitation recommendations for the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers and the Province of South India;

--Review of matters pertaining to personnel: petitions for admission to perpetual profession;

--Updated the Guidelines for Elections in Provincial, Vicariate or District Chapters, and reviewed criteria for election/appointment of vicariate superiors;

--Met with the Provincial of the Province Notre Dame du Perpetual Secours d'Haïti;

--Review of various matters presented by the provinces, vicariates, districts requiring general-level approvals including: review of financial matters submitted by various entities;

--Review of reports from: **General Steward** (including progress on gathering reports from provinces and vicariates on trusts and properties); **Education Committee** (including participation in the Holy Cross Institute Convocation); **Causes for Beatification and Canonization**; **Religious Life Commission** (including report of their December 2008 meeting); **Regional Planning** (including IP/EP and EB/SW discussions in the USA, and Asian regional planning meetings).

## Perpetual Profession

Congratulations to **Brother Christopher Torrijas (MW)** who made his perpetual profession of vows on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Chapel of St. Joseph, Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame. Congratulations and *ad Multos Annos* to our newest professed member in Holy Cross.

## Peyton Centenary

January 9, 2009 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Servant of God **Father Patrick Peyton**. Holy Cross Family Ministries president **Father John Phalen (EP)** inaugurated the year by initiating a novena of prayers.

As we know, Father Peyton's most sacred insight, the goal toward which his whole fascinating life was directed, was to encourage families to come together daily to pray the Rosary. He saw so many benefits to this simple practice. We are all invited to observe this Centenary Year of 2009 with a Novena of Rosaries; we can also encourage those among whom we minister to initiate this practice in their own families.

As a special devotion, it is recommended to add this simple prayer for Father Peyton's beatification at the end of your Rosary. The intercession of the Servant of God is powerful.

*Dear Jesus, Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary. His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth. We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that the family that prays together stays together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love. Amen.*

## Social Justice – Bangladesh

**APON** (Addiction Ponorbashan Nibash) is an organization that sponsors rehabilitation programs and residences for male and female drug addicts in Bangladesh. **APONGAON**, or APON Village, is the largest comprehensive drug rehabilitation centre in Bangladesh serving males, and females and children drug addicts of all social-economic and religious groups. **Brother Ronald Drahozal (MW)** serves as Executive Director of these organizations, and he writes:

“2008 has been a year of development (and of course problems) and many Blessings from God. The developments have come with the help of many generous financial and prayerful contributions to APON

directly and from those in the USA via taxes. The female rehabilitation centre we are building is with funds from the INL (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) of the US State Department at the initiative of the US Embassy in Dhaka. Our other female program for marginalized, street based, sex worker, drug addicts is funded by USAID for the prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts and the awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS. We are also constructing a skill training centre along with an Electronic Information Centre with funds from Grameenphone, a Bangladesh cell phone company.”

APON has again received recognition for the service given to drug addicts. The Director was given another Gold Medal for service to the marginated of society, APON was given an Award by the Department of Narcotics Control, the only one given to a drug rehabilitation Centre in Bangladesh 2008, and the program has received publicity in the media/newspapers and TV. The Director was also invited to present a paper at the Asian Federation of Therapeutic Communities Conference in Bangkok. Brother Ronald’s interpretation of these successes: “much recognition to us that belongs to God.”

“Of course serving drug addicts is not only about good things happening, awards given and good media

coverage; it is more about the struggle to help drug addicts of all ages to change their attitudes, habits and life styles----and that is hard work that at times does not last long. Many go out and return to drugs; some do well the first time and for some it takes return stays. While APON has the only drug rehabilitation program for street children addicts, they come to us with two addictions/obsessions----one is to drugs and the other is to their lifestyle on the streets. We get them off drugs and back to their families...where within a couple days they run off back to the streets!! Some have lived so long of the streets that it is difficult to adjust to family life. Their family is the group of friends they ‘live’ with on the streets. We need to organize something to help them while they live on the street. But that will wait until we get funds to do so.” Brother Ronald can be contacted at <apon@citechco.net>

### **New Leadership**

Several district or provincial chapters have been in session in December and January and new leadership has been announced in several jurisdictions:

**Father James Burasa (IP)** re-elected District Superior in East Africa; **Brother Binoy Gomes (SJ)** re-elected Provincial Superior in St. Joseph Province, Bangladesh; **Father Roberto Baker (EP)** re-appointed District Superior in Peru; **Brother**

**Daniel Dardoe (MW)** newly elected District Superior in West Africa.

Congratulations and *Ad Multos Annos* to these religious for their willingness to serve in leadership, and special gratitude and thanks to **Brother Paul Mensah (MW)** who completes his years of service as district superior in West Africa.

### **Moreau Day at the Generalate**

The community at the generalate celebrated Moreau Day in three events: with a local house chapter meeting and “out for pizza” on the Vigil, with the Eucharistic celebration, *aperitivo* and *pranzo* on the Feast (with **Father Mario Lachapelle** presiding at our Blessed Moreau Liturgy celebrated in French), and with an informal “inauguration watch” party to view the events surrounding the United States’ presidential inauguration. While only the local community (**Father Hugh Cleary, Brother John Paige, Father Mario Lachapelle, Brother Joseph Tsiquaye, Father Carl Ebey, Brother Edward Dailey, Father Paul Leblanc, Father Russ McDougall**) attended the chapter meeting, other invited guests joined for the celebrations including **Sister Laura Therrien CSC, Brother Robert Falcone (EB), Father Alexander Susai (SI), Father Michael Wurtz (IP), Father Lucien Coutu (C),** and **Mr. Jimmy Okumu.**

### **Generalate Visitors**

Visitors to the generalate community this month included non-resident members of the general council **Father Richard Warner, Brother Bijoy Rodrigues, and Father Éric Jasmin;** also **Father Robert Dowd (IP), Father Vernet Luxana (H), Brother Robert Falcone (EB), Jack and Frank Ruhe** (guests of Fr. Russ), and **Father John Kiiza** (guest of Br. Edward).

*Blessed Basile-Anthony Moreau  
religious, priest,  
January 20<sup>th</sup>*

*If I could have foreseen the development of the Congregation of Holy Cross from the outset, then I could have regulated and coordinated everything in advance. If such were the case, however, the Congregation would have been a merely human combination and not the work of divine Providence. The fact of the matter is that it began and developed in a manner so mysterious, that I can claim for myself neither credit for its foundation nor merit for its progress. Therein lies the indubitable proof that God alone is the founder of this Congregation, since, according to St. Augustine, “when we cannot find the cause of a good work, we must recognize that the Lord is its beginning and author.” (CL 94)*