Franz Putzer, born in 1924 in Brixen, was age twelve when he developed tubercular meningitis in 1936. The medics who treated him knew that his case was so advanced that there was nothing they could do for him. His mother, who was a friend and neighbour of our sisters in the town, prayed earnestly to Mary Ward to intercede with God to save the life of her son. To the amazement of the doctors and to the joy of his family Franz made a full recovery. In the doctors’ medical notes it was recorded that they could not give a medical explanation for his recovery. Franz hoped to realise his vocation by joining the Capuchin Order but unfortunately he was killed in 1943 during the Second World War.

Over seventy years have passed since this apparent ‘miracle’ and many of the key witnesses of the event have passed on. However, several witnesses could be found who had known the family well and who remembered Franz. Franz had contacted the most dangerous form of tubercular meningitis which, at that time without antibiotics or other suitable medicines, normally resulted in death.

Sr Mechtilde Meckl accompanied by Sr Maria Helena Gabai went to Bozen-Brixen for the conclusion of the diocesan investigative process on 12th November.

In the diocesan press statement issued on the same day it states: ‘Today the diocesan investigation process into the miraculous healing of a young man through the intercession...’
of Mary Ward, foundress of the “English Ladies” (Congregatio Jesu) was brought to its conclusion. Now the sealed documents are on their way to the responsible Congregation in Rome where the Beatification process will be decided.....

...The diocesan investigation, led by Fr Alois Hillebrand as delegated by the bishop, called first for the collection of documents relevant to the case: letters, reports and witness statements, in order to establish their authenticity. With the help of medical experts (peritus medicus), of Canon lawyers (promoter iustitiae), and the notary, the witness of the relations and the school colleagues of Franz Putzer was heard. More doctors were asked about the possibility of a cure from tubercular meningitis in the pre-war years’.

So now the process has gone to the Congregation for the Beatification of the Saints who will carry out their own investigation of the material presented. This will take time – we hope only months and not years, but who knows? But the process is going forward and that is cause for rejoicing. As the Bishop of Bozen-Brixen, Mgr Golser said at the conclusion of the diocesan process: ‘It is not the candidate for beatification or canonization who is the miracle worker, rather it is God’s work, his guidance and providence that through the intercession of God’s handmaid becomes obvious and tangible,’ and he added: ‘for the believing Christian a miracle is not something magical. A healing sign is proof of God’s love to human beings.’

Patna – Singla

A new section of St Mary’s School in Singla, which is up in the foothills of the Himalayas not far from Darjeeling and which serves the needs of the poor, was officially opened in September. Sr Anupa Kandathumkarayil CJ has sent us this report:

September 25th, 2010 was a long awaited day for all of us at St. Mary's School. After much labour and toil our new School building was completed and Fr. Peter Pappu SJ, the Provincial Superior of Darjeeling Jesuits, along with Fr. J. Pappadil and other fathers blessed the new School building. The St. Mary's choir led the blessing ceremony with beautiful hymns. We were privileged to have as the chief guest Ms. Maitree Chakraborthy the area development officer of Bijanbari. Sr. Carmel Mattathilanickal CJ, our Provincial Superior, was the guest of honour and she cut the ceremonial ribbon after the blessing.

All our staff and students were present for this event. We felt it was a dream come true for all of us at St Mary’s.

We then had the entertainment prepared by the students. This year the theme of our Programme was ‘The Importance of Safeguarding our Environment.’ All the items were based on this theme and our students presented beautiful dances, action songs, and drill displays all on the Environment. In her address the chief guest stressed the importance of education and said, "the role of students is to study. Life is not a bed of roses; we need to face hardships to achieve something".

Bishop Golser handing the sealed documents on the miracle process to Dr. Ambrosi
We were privileged to have with us Mr. Jeevan Gurung, the ex-manager of the tea garden, who had generously offered us the land for the new St. Mary's School building, and who managed the formalities for the clearing of the three acres of land on the tea estate at Singla. His presence at our function marks out a special chapter in the history of St. Mary's School. We are grateful to our many generous benefactors and especially to Fr. J. Pappadil SJ who laid the foundation stone for this building on 20th June 2007.

**Romania**

*In January 2010, Sr Carmen Petcu CJ finished her doctorate in Gregorian Chant at the "Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra" in Rome, and in June she returned to Romania. In October, together with several teachers, she opened the Ecumenical Institute of Sacred Music, based in the Roman Catholic Theological Institute in Bucharest. This project aims to offer children and youth a good training in liturgical music which will enrich their participation in the celebration of the Mass. Sr. Carmen writes:*

The Institute is set up as an independent association having the approval and recognition of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bucharest, and aims to promote religious education, the formation of liturgical leaders and choir masters, organists, cantors, choristers in all that pertains to religious music and worship. It is designed to be an ecumenical type structure, with the possibility of offering liturgical musical training to different confessions and groups.

This Institute is a project that will begin in a small way, but surely, however small and insignificant it may seem today in the eyes of others if it’s God's work and inspired by the Holy Spirit, this mustard seed will eventually become a large tree with rich fruit, sooner or later, in God’s time. He holds everything in his hands and guides it according to his divine plan.

The key of this project is collaboration between different churches. We are privileged to have at our disposal a special way of communicating: a language that speaks without words, reaching the hearts of all, both big and small, surpassing personal belief and cultural ideology or cultural tradition: and that language is MUSIC!

In addition, as sacred music, it is a bridge leading to the transcendent, to a relationship with the Divine. It is the place where each one finds himself, and loses himself in order to meet the Other.

We want this institute to become an ecumenical reference point for liturgical music for the whole archdiocese of Bucharest and why not, eventually, for the whole country?

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**Chile Province - Mary Ward Children's Home, San Fabian**

*Sr. Carmen Tapias CJ writes:*

Mary Ward Children’s Home was founded in 1965 by our Sisters. It is located in San Fabian de Alico, a town in the south of Chile. At the present we have 40 children and adolescents (girls) from 02 to 16 years old. The home circumstances of our girls requires ever increasing specialized care and attention.

They come from backgrounds where they have been exposed to serious vulnerability within their families: parental neglect, abandonment, mistreatment, domestic violence, parental drug and alcohol addiction, psychological illness and extreme poverty. In almost all the cases the parents are not able to look after the girls. When they come to the
Mary Ward Home we have to care for all their basic needs and above all we have to offer them the love that gives them the security they lack within their families. The most difficult task is to rehabilitate the parents’ capacity to give their children the right to live with them.

For all this work Mary Ward Children’s Home depends on its team consisting of: Sr. Carmen Tapias CJ, the Director of the Home, psychologists, social workers, educators, nutritionists, cleaning people and an accountant. The total number of staff is 18. We receive a subsidy from the State which enables us to carry on this important mission of the Congregatio Jesu in Chile.

Jubilee Section

Pilgrimage to Munich

Devotions in the Church at Salmdorf

More than 150 sisters and companions of the Congregatio Jesu from various houses of the Middle European Province made a joint pilgrimage to Munich on the 9th October. The last such joint pilgrimage of sisters had been six years previously for the foundation of the Middle European Province. The pilgrimage was in fact part of the 400 years celebrations.

"After many celebrations in various places for the occasion of the Jubilee it was fitting that the sisters should experience an enjoyable, common day together in a central place,” said Sr Cosima Kiesner who organised the event.

Allahabad – Greening the Jubilee

The sisters of Kanudih celebrated the 400 Jubilee by distributing 400 plants for a Tree Plantation to different self-help groups in the area.

THE NEXT CJ NEWS will be in January 2011. Please send news to reach the Generalate by 15th January 2011.

(Please send news articles in Word format and accompanying pictures as jpg.)

WEBSITE
The Spiritual Preparation for GC 2011 and the Province Profiles are on the CJ Website www.congregatiojesu.org and can be found on the menu under ‘General Congregation’. Password access is needed for the CJ only section.