Generalate – St. Omer

In place of our customary end-of-year evaluation the Generalate decided that this was the year to go on pilgrimage to St-Omer. 2011 completes our jubilee years and we wanted to pray specially that the graces given to Mary Ward four hundred years earlier- ‘take the same’ - would be with us in our final preparations for GC2011.

Sr Amadeus Bulger CJ, from the English Province, kindly accepted the request to be our mentor and guide. We spent four days walking back and forth across the city of St-Omer from the Jesuit College to the Flemish Poor Clare Convent; from the bishop’s palace to the diocesan seminary; from Gravelines (by minibus) back to her first house in Rue Carnot in 1609. We trudged the pathways and waterways of Clairmarais where Mary Ward begged for alms as a Poor Clare sister.

It even rained all day to give us an experience of some of the unpleasantness that she must have experienced. In the evenings we shared our experiences and rejoiced in the deepening understanding of what the Lord asked of Mary in her foundation of our congregation – and what she asks of us too.
**Cuba**

*Sr. Elena Gatica CJ, the Provincial Superior of Chile, has sent us this article on Cuba:*

From 25 May to 03 June the six Provincial Superiors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Italy, Romania and Spain gathered in Rodas, Cuba. We were welcomed by our four missionaries there and they shared their house with us and we felt ourselves very at home. These six Provinces form what we call CICUBA, that is, the Interprovincial Conference for Cuba. The aims of the meeting were:

1. to get to know each other better and share the life and mission of our sisters there. We had some days of insertion in their apostolic activities / places;
2. To get to know more closely the reality of the Church and the socio-politic-economic situation of the country;
3. To start a discernment process to extend our apostolic presence in Cuba in the future, that is, to have a second community in another diocese where the need is greatest.

I conclude by saying that it was a very rich experience and at the same time a challenge for us. We are continuing the discernment process to find the place where we are needed most, and the Provinces will start the preparation of the members for the new community. We had always before us the motto of the GC ‘Called to bring Hope’.

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**Social Ministry Section**

**Argentinean Province – Cerrito pupils care for the environment**

*Sr Liliana Raquel Castro CJ has sent us this article entitled: ‘Think globally, act locally.’*

Journeying towards GC 2011 with prayer and reflection, we are invited to live our vows as an ‘expression of our responsibility for the care of the whole creation, the defence of human rights and the development of a culture of peace and justice as well’. In this direction we took an initiative with our pupils in our school in Cerrito, a town with 5,000 inhabitants.

Since last year we have been struggling to create here a ‘culture of sustainability’ through socially appropriate technology. For this purpose we have been collaborating with the local government in ‘feeding’ a bio-digestor, that is, a techno-process that generates methane gas from organic waste. Our pupils take part in this project collecting used batteries in order to ‘bury’ them in the

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Somewhere near Cuba, CJ provincials and community in search of a new mission. Left to right: Srs Soledad (Argentine), Anna (Cuba), Teresa (Cuba), Monica (Cuba), Elena (Chile), Varvara (centre front- Romania), Fatima (Spain), Cirley (Brazil) and Annarita (Italy). Missing – presumed to be the photographer, or overboard?- Monika (Romania)

Sr Liliana and pupils receiving an explanation on the workings of the bio-digestor
depths of the bio-digestor, so that they remain there permanently isolated.

Another activity has been the production of pamphlets about the domestic classification of organic waste, raising families’ awareness, since we have visited many of them. On that occasion we invited them to respond to a survey on their environmental commitment.

As a second step of this activity the pupils asked to be received by the Mayor in order to present him with the concerns of people on environmental issues. The pupils were so enthusiastic about these ecological matters that the Mayor took the decision to implant a new biodigester close to the town’s garbage collection. The methane gas generated by this new equipment is used to warm the three public swim pools in the winter time and to illuminate the public sports centre of the town. This initiative motivated the establishment of the Eco-Club formed by young people with the purpose of raising their awareness. Eco-Club is a NGO that encourages the creativity of young people in many projects including recycling activities.

We are convinced that only by education in the values of solidarity, compassion, commitment, and participation, can we help to build a new world. The young people, our pupils, and others are the agents of change in our society. We should act as facilitators of this process.

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**English Province – Political action for Social Justice**

Sr Pat Robb CJ, the Province Justice and Peace Coordinator, helped to organise a lobby at Parliament in London to demand an increase in the amount of national aid funding for the less developed countries. A ‘lobby’ is an official way of speaking with members of Parliament in an attempt to influence their decisions. 131 Members of Parliament were lobbied by 1,500 lobbyists from all over the country. Of particular concern to them was: (i) tax evasion by British companies operating overseas, (ii) greater financial transparency from such companies, and (iii) new taxes to fund overseas development.

Sr Pat (seated left) can be seen with her local MP, Julian Huppert MP, Theresa Campbell (Cambridge CAFOD group), and Sr Edita CJ (seated right) from Slovakia who came to experience a parliamentary lobby.

**Nepal – Kathmandu**

Besides the usual campaign to protect the environment, the members of the Environment Club ventured into something
new. They painted part of the School wall (outside) with a beautiful panoramic view of a healthy environment – a message for those who pass by, to care and to nurture God’s creation.

**New Provincial - Patna Province**

Sr Carmel Mattathilanickal’s term of office as provincial superior of Patna province comes to an end in late February, 2012. She has led the Patna province through challenging times of restructuring, creating out of it first the Nepal Region and then later the Bangalore Region. We are most grateful to her for her cooperation in the ministry of leadership.

**Sr Vimla Plamootil CJ** has been appointed as the new provincial superior. Sr Vimla is at present the Novice Director of the combined Novitiate for India and Nepal, and has held this position for the last ten years. She has a three year training in theology from Nagpur, India; has attended a six month programme for the formators at Regina Mundi in Rome; and has a diploma in Counselling and Spiritual Direction. She is also trained in Ignatian Spirituality.

We wish Sr Vimla every blessing as she takes up the leadership role of a very mission oriented Province with many challenges and opportunities.

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**The date of the next CJ News is unknown.**

However, new items will continue to be posted on the CJ website - [www.congregatiojesu.org](http://www.congregatiojesu.org)

During the General Congregation there will be a daily website bulletin along with photographs on happenings at the GC. This is to enable everyone to participate as the GC unfolds.

The website will be adapted in September to make access easier and the first bulletin will appear on October 3rd 2011.