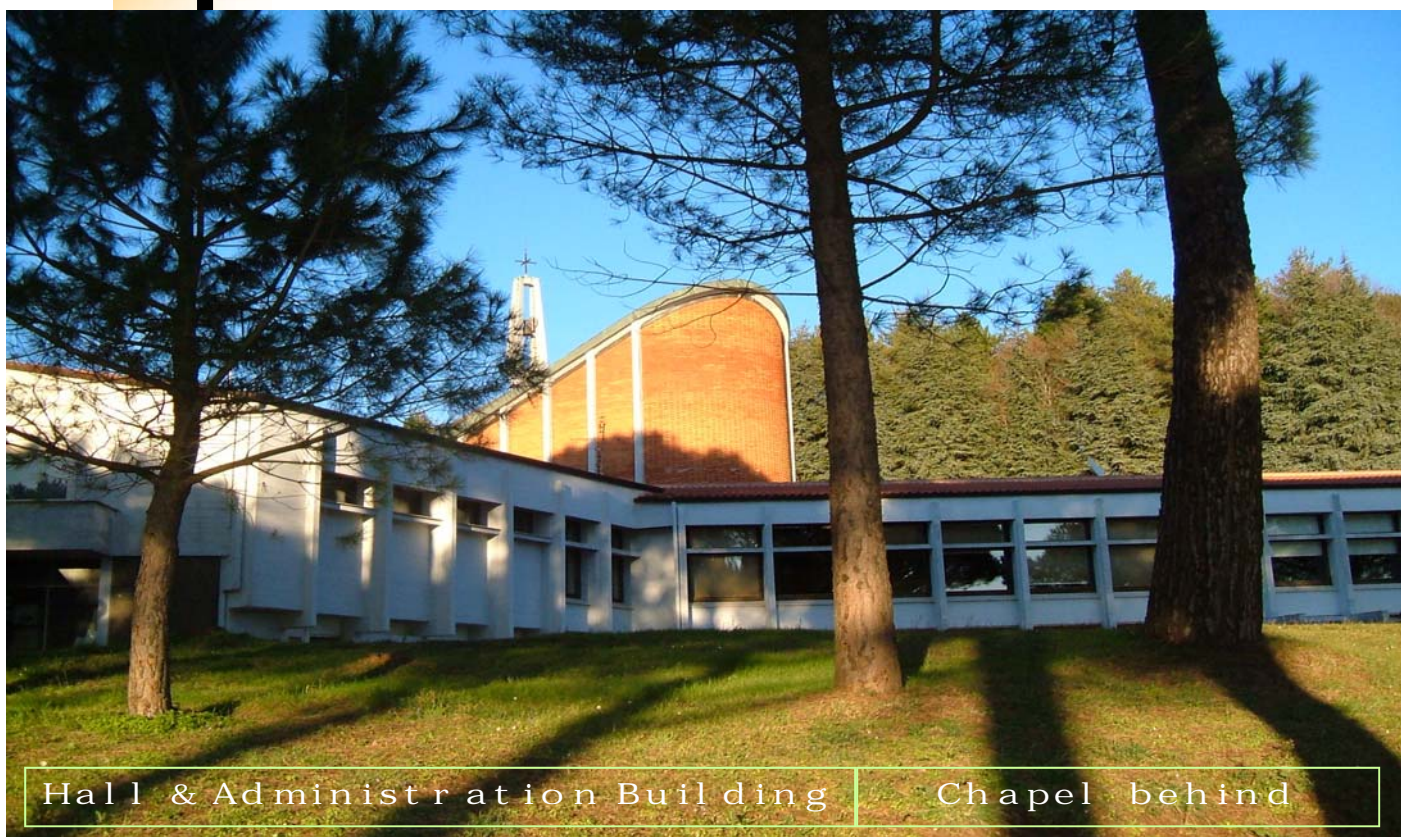


1 THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 2

March 3, 2008



Hall & Administration Building

Chapel behind

Message

As of this writing we, the Third Age participants, have completed two weeks of intensive activities. Our Superior General, Tony Pernia, explained to us the changes of missionary method called for by the changing times and the last general chapters. The four coordinators of our unique apostolate: the Bible, Communications, Justice and Peace and Mission, explained to us how to integrate these in our mission work. After that, Herbert "Bubi" Scholz opened the scriptures to us and showed how the biblical figures like Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Simeon, Hanna and Paul, could be models for third-agers. Then in the last three days, Frank Gerry from Australia, shared with us a contemplative understanding of the three vows. —

The good news! There are no drop outs or casualties so far. Our house "nurse", Fr. Jorge Fernandes, does a regular check up on our blood pressure, cholesterol and sugar. And our spirits are high! ~

Nemi staff

Fr. Jorge Fernandes – Praeses
Fr. Claudio Sommadossi – House Treasurer
Fr. George Kootappillil – Dir. Dei Verbum
Fr. Joe Francis – Res. Spiritual Director
Fr. Tony Bon Pates – Dir. Renewal Programs
Fr. Frank Gerry – Guest Spiritual Director

Meaning of Time

The value of time has been mentioned on a few occasions. As part of the parish programme in Banz, PNG, the parish team of two priests and a Sister would go out in the evenings to join the villagers at their prayer meetings. When the prayers were finished they would discuss local events, what work had to be done and other things. Then there was a time for questions.

This particular evening one old man, who must have been in the village when the highlanders were still in the Stone Age, indicated that he had a question. "Pater, yu stap taim Jisas idai long kruse or nogat?" He was asking whether I was there when Jesus died on the cross.

I looked around expecting some smiles or laughter, but all were serious. They would not have understood a long-winded explanation, so I just said: "Nogat, em idai long taim bilong tumbuna bilong tumbuna bilong yu-pela." That says: "No, He died at the time of the ancestors of your ancestors." It was accepted. – Norman Davitt, SVD

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A Picture Speaks a Thousand Words



Eugen Nunnenmacher-71; George Schubbe-

Third-Ager's Musings

The third-agers in Nemi came to the common feeling that the General Council and all provincial and house councils should include a third-ager. If possible there should be a third-ager in all communities with younger confreres.

(Continue next column...)

Third Age Prayer

Author Unknown

They've brought You up to date, Lord, down at St. Cecilia's Church. They've pensioned off the organ and they're praising with guitars. They've done it for the young folk, we want to bring them in. But I wish that they'd worship without such noisy din! For I'm growing somewhat deaf, Lord, and when there's all this noise. .

It's getting somewhat hard, Lord, to hear Your loving voice. They've written brand new hymns, Lord, with tunes I do not know. So I hardly ever sing now though I did not love singing so. They're very go-ahead, Lord. They're singing Series Three. But the words are not as beautiful as once they used to be. They've modernized the Bible, Lord, - the Lord's Prayer and the Creed - when the old ones were so perfect that they filled every need.

My mind is not as agile as it was some years ago. And I miss the age old beauty of the words I used to know. It's very clear to me, Lord, I've overstayed my time. I don't take to change, Lord, as I did in my prime. But it can't be very long now before I'm called above. And I know I'll find you there, Lord, and glory in your Love. So till then I'll stick it out, Lord, though it's not the same for me. But while others call 'You', Lord, do you mind if I say 'Thee'? ~

Third Ager Musings (continued...)

Third-agers must modify their thinking of younger confreres. Third-agers know they have grown in wisdom when they move from questioning to questioning everything, and then to question questioning itself. If they have to listen one more time to being told that they are ageing, diminishing and not able to do as much as they used to do, they'll scream. Death is a reality for both young and old; so no one has to remind the third-agers that they are nearing their true reality. To bring peace and harmony to Society and the world, members of the Silent Age (i.e. third-agers), Baby Boomers as well as the current generation must cross over the bridge and visit each other... ~ Jerome D'Souza, SVD

Samaritans and Missionaries in Genzano

In the afternoon of February 22nd Lorenzo and Jeronimo drove Claudio Sommadossi, our house treasurer, to Campo



Leone station. He had to travel to his birthplace near Trento to take part in the funeral of one of his uncles. While Lorenzo and

Jeronimo were driving back to Nemi, anxious to arrive in time for the next presentation on Justice and Peace, they had problems with the clutch of the car. In Genzano, right in the middle of busy traffic the car stalled.

They nervously tried to get the car out of the middle of the traffic when two men — good Samaritans — left their car to help Lorenzo and Jeronimo to push the car to the side of the road. One of the men called a mechanic friend. But since the mechanic couldn't come right away, they went with Jeronimo to get him, while Lorenzo stayed by the broken-down car.

In the meantime, a religious nun came out of the nearby Franciscan church, approached Lorenzo and invited him to join them in the church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Lorenzo thanked her for the invitation and replied: "Sister, excuse me but I can't because I'm watching our car until the mechanic comes to repair it.

The Sister smiled and said: "We will pray that your car gets repaired and your problem is solved. Lorenzo and Jeronimo missed the sharing on Justice and Peace, but they discovered that justice and peace can be found in Genzano!

*Lorenzo Goyeneche, SVD
Jeronimo Jose Hipolito, SVD*

NOVA ET VETERA (OLD & NEW)

Arturo Bastes, SVD (now Archbishop in Nueva Caceres in the Philippines) and I were in the Nemi Renewal Course of 1988. We both enjoyed the paintings of Caravaggio, an Italian Renaissance artist. The chapel of the French Embassy, St. Louis of France, contains a good collection of his works.

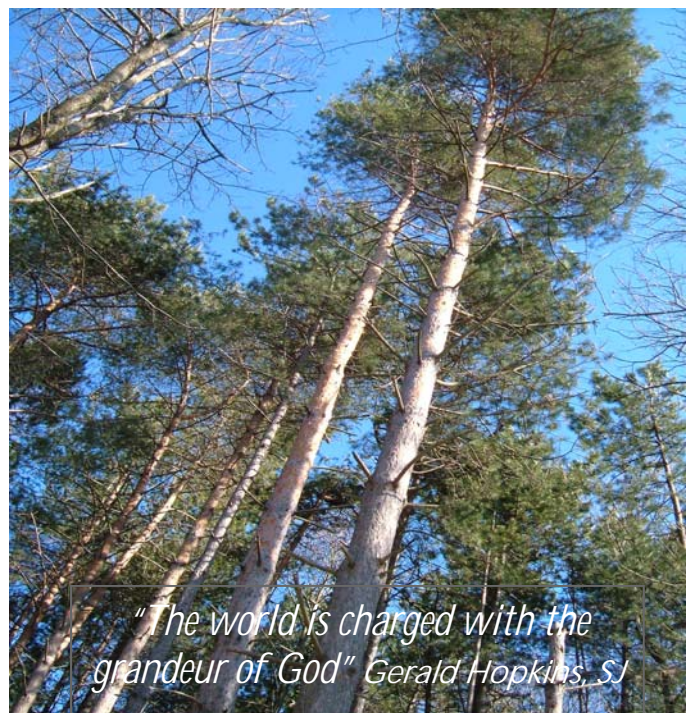


So on one of our excursions to Rome we determined to pay a visit there to see them. While viewing the paintings we each went our own

way. At one painting a woman approached me and said she wanted to purchase some postcard reproductions of Caravaggio's work, but had no coins to put in the machine. Could

I exchange some of her paper Lire (Italian money then)? She had only some coins. I said: "Sure and gave her the coins and extended my hand waiting for her to give me the proper change.

While doing so, someone unexpectedly dropped a sum of money into my extended hand and quickly moved on. I was startled and so I didn't pursue the individual. When Arturo rejoined me, I said, "Arturo, we can have a little



*"The world is charged with the
grandeur of God" Gerald Hopkins, SJ*



In 2004 I made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (Spain). A companion on the *camino* for a while was a young Canadian. We came across many people as they walked, jogged or hiked along the city/town streets or country trails. They kept their heads down and moved on without noticing anybody. We decided then and there 'to greet each one with a smile'. People reacted differently: some showed no reaction, others looked surprised, many smiled back and answered the greeting. Some time later my pilgrimage companion was a young Japanese lady; we decided to do the same: 'greet each one with the smile'.

Our experience was so encouraging that we, coming from different continents, founded an 'International Association'; its motto: '**GREET EACH ONE WITH A SMILE!**' Doing so does make a great difference! Join the club! We can and we will create a *happier*, and *more peaceful* community. And our community is the World...

It can all start with a simple 'Greet each with a smile.' And it can help you also. Here's what smiling can do to you:

*72% of people think of those who smile frequently as being more confident and successful;

*86% of people say that they are more

- 4 likely to strike up conversations with strangers if they are smiling;
- *Studies show that happiness is a by-product of smiling, not the other way around as most people assume;
 - *It is even said that the effects of a smile are so powerful that even a smile on the telephone produces positive results.

Consequently smiling is good for you, not to mention the people that have to look at you. Furthermore it is a necessity for a Society that

Spread love!

commits itself to Prophetic Dialogue with the world in the service of the Divine Word. "**Greet each one with smile**" is a small step you can do; it opens the door to the heart of 'your neighbor' yet only when it comes 'from your heart.'

Mother Teresa said "Let us always greet each other with a smile for the smile is the beginning of love." And also said "smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other - it doesn't matter who it is - and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."



By: Waldy Weniger, SVD

"If I

Rejoice in the Lord always;
I say again rejoice! (St. Paul)

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• **Ray Quetchenbach, SVD**