

THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

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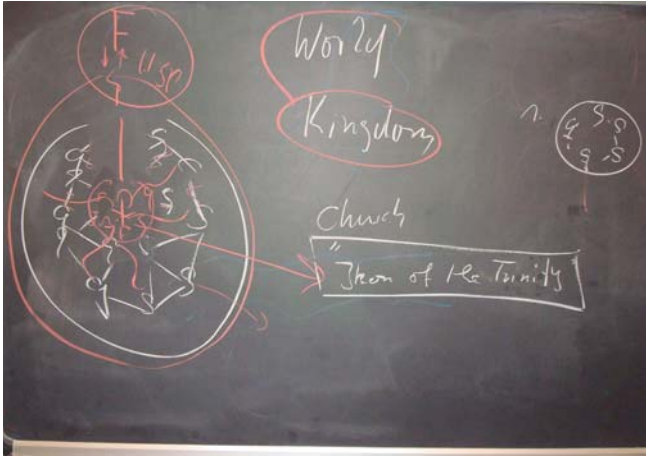


PALM SUNDAY AT ST. PETER'S SQUARE

Some of us Third-Agers attended the ceremonies at St. Peter's Basilica on Palm Sunday. We sat it out with the thousands of youth in a 3-hour ceremony. After the Mass, Pope Benedict XVI in his pope-mobile passed by us just a few meters away from us. We joined in shouting: "Viva il Papa!"



THE KINGDOM OF GOD



The above diagram fully explains the Kingdom of God as envisioned by Fr. John Fuellenbach. Of course there are a few more details which we hope to learn when we return to Nemi for the Fourth Age Program.

In a discussion of the vows Fr. John informed us that chastity is not the toughest vow for older men. But he asserted that just because there is snow on the roof it does not mean that there's no fire in the oven."

A PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

Lorenzo & Jeronimo

Assisi is one of these few physical places where harmony, peace and simplicity become a parable of the Kingdom. Happy and grateful for the completion of the completed retreat, but still in search for more spiritual oxygen, Lorenzo and Jerónimo went on a pilgrimage to Assisi on Palm Sunday.

Early in the morning Jorge Fernandes, always ready to serve, drove the two pilgrimages to the nearby Campoleone railway station. From there we rode on "brother" train to Assisi, a long but very pleasant trip.

Once in Assisi we participated in the liturgical celebration of Palm Sunday in the upper Basilica of St. Francis in the midst of a numerous Christian community holding palms in their hands and respectfully listening to the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After mass we walked through the crowded streets of beautiful Assisi and visited the St. Damiano church, a place sanctified by the lives and miracles of St. Francis and St. Clair. We ended our pilgrimage down at the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels where the Portiuncula chapel of St. Francis is found.

From this experience we resolved to remain faithful to our missionary commitment.

Lorenzo and Jerónimo

MESSAGE

One of the truly remarkable aspects of the 3rd Age Program was the extraordinary assembly of participants and presenters from around the world (Cf. p. 3). In all there were representatives from sixteen different countries, a veritable United Nations of intercultural experience. Although it took almost three days for each of the 31 participants to tell some aspect of their vocation to the religious life in the Society, this exercise did much to make us feel at home with each other.

Also the presentations by the men from the generalate in Rome starting with the superior general and going through the general councilors who happened to be in Rome at the time and the men from the other general staff members made us feel that we were being let into the ongoing dynamic of the Society.

Also a great effort was made by the Society to provide us with spiritual directors for the directed guided retreat which was a very special grace for many of us. What remains for us is the trip to Oise to the home of St. Joseph Freinademetz to help confirm our missionary identity.

Where in the world is there another religious congregation like the Society of the Divine Word!

The Editorial Staff

**INTERNATIONALITY OF SVD PRESENCE
at the Third Age Program**

COUNTRY	FAMILY NAME	POSITION
GENERALATE STAFF MEMBERS WHO ADDRESSED THE PARTICIPANTS		
Philippines	Pernia, Anthonio	Superior General
Angola	Chindecasse, Estanislau	General Councilor
Brazil	Dias, Arlindo	General Councilor
India	Pinto, Gregory	General Councilor
Philippines	Pio, Estepa	Mission Secretary
Indonesia,	Tisera, Guido	Bible Coordinator
Slovakia	Bubak, Milan	Justice and Peace Coordinator
Brazil	Sicuro, Edvino	Communications

LECTURERS

USA	Arnold, Roger	Lecturer: Designing Third Age
Germany	Fuellenbach, John	Lecturer, Kingdom Theology
Germany	Scholz, Herbert	Lecturer, Third Age Journey in the Bible
Australia,	Gerry, Francis	Lecturer, Third Age Journey Vowed Life

NEMI STAFF MEMBERS

Portugal	Fernandes, George	Praeses Nemi
Philippines	Pates, Tony Bon	Director—Renewal Program, Nemi
India	Francis, Joseph	Spiritual Director, Nemi
Italy	Sommadossi, Claudio	House Treasurer, Nemi

RETREAT DIRECTORS

Netherlands	Gelinck, Anthony	Directed Retreat Master
Germany	Scholz, Herbert	Directed Retreat Master
England	McHugh, Peter	Directed Retreat Master
India	Francis, Joseph	Directed Retreat Master
Australia	Gerry, Francis	Directed Retreat Master
Ireland	Leyden, Thomas	Directed Retreat Master

PARTICIPANTS, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND NUMBER

India	9	Retreat Participant
Germany	6	Retreat Participant
USA	5	Retreat Participant
Philippines	4	Retreat Participant
Chile	1	Retreat Participant
Spain	1	Retreat Participant
England	1	Retreat Participant
Netherlands	1	Retreat Participant
Portugal	1	Retreat Participant
Ireland	1	Retreat Participant
Indonesia	1	Retreat Participant

WHAT NEMI MEANS TO ME

By: Bro. James Mullen, SVD

In 1970 I was privileged to come to Nemi to make the renewal course. At the completion of the program, I was asked to remain on as part of the staff. The “remaining” lasted fourteen years. For the first five years I helped the community in the Architect Department, the “Bau Bureau,” which supervised the construction projects of the Society around the world. Then for the next nine years I contributed my services to maintain the main residence building.

Over a quarter century later I was given the opportunity to once again return to Nemi, this time as participant in the Third Age Program. I find it graced-filled chance to live with and share experiences with over thirty men from ten different countries. Also the lecturers are intellectually very stimulating. To visit Nemi, Rome and various places in Italy is an unforgettable joy. But by far the most significant part of the program has been the directed retreat which has given me a preparation for a holy and happy death.

How grateful I am to the Society for the opportunities given me to experience farm work in Conesus, to do electrical work in PNG, to work with mentally and handicapped people, to teach English to migrants, to work with addicts in Trenton, New Jersey. But Nemi has been and still is an important part of my life for which I am very grateful. ~

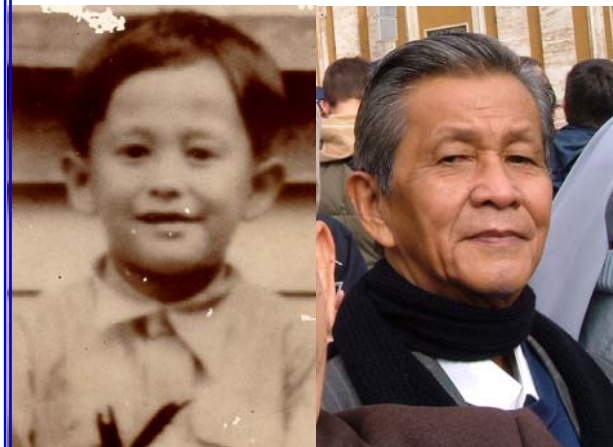


“Shrimps”, a Chinese painting made on the spot by Fr. Dominic, SVD after a talk on China. 03/18/08 a report on China,, March 18, 2008



*What you waiting for? Are you waiting
for death or for resurrection?
He, he, he..!*

VICTOR BUNANIG , SVD A Filipino missionary to Indonesia in the past 47 years



Then *and* **Now**

CORRECTION

We are sorry for misspelling the name of
ROQUE PHILLIPS in our last Issue.

~ The Editorial Staff ~

Editorial Staff:

Dom Flores, SVD
Ray Quetchenbach, SVD