



THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 5
March 30, 2008



View from Freinademetz Home in Oies



Church of St. Joseph in Melland

Our Third-Age Program is finally coming to an end. We formally closed the program today with a solemn mission sending ceremony. As this will be our last issue of the Third Age Newsletter, the participants want to say good-bye. The six weeks has been a wonderful and grace-filled time! We want to express our boundless thanks to the Generalate and the organizing staff at Nemi for giving attention to us seniors members of the SVD, a recognition of the importance and specific role of older confreres.

We, Third-Agers, have come to realize that, though our physical bodies may have somewhat given way, our spirits and resolve to love God and neighbor are still intense. We are more determined to fulfill our religious, missionary life as SVDs today.

Message

We thank also our provincials and other superiors who have allowed us to participate in this on-going formation program. We also want to express our thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, active and contemplative, the countless lay-people and our co-workers who have accompanied us with their prayers and moral support. —And now, on to the next days of our lives!

As a group we would like to encourage the Society and province administrations, that are so generous in providing formation opportunities to younger confreres, to continue offering this renewal opportunity to older confreres. Please.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
11111

~ Editorial Staff

Pilgrimage to Oies

On Monday, March 24, amid hail, thunder and a road blanketed in a dense cloud, the participants of the 3rd Age Program boarded a bus for a four-day pilgrimage to Oies to experience the



The weather was threatening when we left Nemi

of the environs of Rome, Fr. Eugene Nunnenmacher began a learned description of the regions and provinces of Italy, indicating features of their geology and history. It is remarkable how many different Italys there are. At times the *Autostrada del Sol* actually lived up to its name by allowing the sun to break through the clouds!

After ten hours we arrived at beautiful Brixen/Bressanone, and shuffled through the streets in our various outlandish garbs taken from the closet at Nemi. We walked a good hundred yards in biting cold to the seminary building where St. Joseph spent the years of his theology study.



The basilica in Brixen where Joseph often worshipped.

which identified the true cross of Jesus. As we gathered around the altar in the unheated

life of our saintly Joseph Freinademetz. The day before we had a been briefed on some aspects of his life by Fr. Juer-gen Ommer-born, SVD. As we moved out

We soon assembled for mass in the larger church attached to the seminary. The church is dedicated to the Holy Cross and the ceiling murals depicts St. Helen and the miracle

sanctuary we were reminded that it was on that floor that Joseph prostrated himself during the ordination ceremony on July 25th, 1876.

Fr. Juerger continued to fill us in with details of the life of St. Joseph. This added tremendously to our understanding of the saint and recognition of his greatness.

Tuesday morning we toured the old city center of Brixen. After lunch, our teeth chattering because of the cold, we visited Neu Stift, a monastery of Augustinian monks, where we found a wall plaque containing the name “Johannes Christomus Mitterreutzner, the teacher who was so active in fostering vocations to the missions including that of St. Joseph.

Following that we visited the St. Joseph Freinademetz church in Melland where the pastor explained to us the architecture of the building and where we had a prayer service.

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The pilgrim chapel and meeting room adjacent to the Freinademetz homestead

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On Wednesday after breakfast we boarded the bus to visit Oies. But first we stopped at the little church dedicated to St. Martin of Tours where Joseph first served as a priest and from where he took his tearful farewell before going to China. Then we continued on to Badia, the village below Oies. The bus labored up the slope to the birth house of Joseph in a cluster of farm houses know as Oies.

We celebrated mass in the room where he was born. The impression one receives from Oies is one of simplicity and poverty. Adjacent barns even now emitted the aroma of cow dung. The Dolomite mountains, the beginning of the Alps, surround the site with astonishing beauty..

After a picnic lunch we returned to Badia to visit the church of St. Leonard where Joseph was baptized the very day of his birth and where he worshiped as a lad. The cemetery that surrounds the church contains the bodies of Joseph's mother and other family members.

Because it had not snowed for some days it was possible to take the Gardena Pass and enjoy the awesome view of the Alpine Mountains from close to a mile high.

The next morning we took our breakfast and returned by bus to Nemi which welcomed us amid rain and fog. - *Ray Q.*

"Why do the Swiss cows have bells around their necks? That's because their horns don't work." A *Vincent Ohlingerism!*



The Dolomites, the Alpine mountains surrounding Oies, are spectacular as seen through the window of the saint's home.



Statue of the saint surrounded Chinese children found in the St. Joseph church in Melland.

Editorial Staff:

Dom Flores, SVD
Ray Quetchenbach, SVD



Fr. Josef Pirzkall presenting our little gifts of appreciation to our lay staff: Maria, Emanuela, Corina, Laura, Simona, and Tiziana. Not in the picture: Beta and Gabriela.

GREENING POWER

One of the most wonderful concepts that St. **Hildegard of Bingen** gifts us with is a term, “Greening Power,” (*Viriditas* in Latin). She says that all of creation and humanity is “showered with greening refreshment, the vitality to bear fruit.”

She describes this in a poem she wrote and put into music: “In honor of St. Disibode.”

*O, life-giving greenness of God’s hand,
With which he has planted an orchard.
You rise resplendent into the highest heavens,
Like a towering pillar.
You are glorious in God’s work,
And you, O mountain heights,
Will never waver when God tests you.
Although you stand in the distance as if in
exile,
No armed power is mighty enough to attack
you.
You are glorious in God’s work. ~*

Pope John Paul II Health and Chronic Illnesses

18 May 1920	- Born
1958	- Bishop at 38
1967	- Cardinal at 47
1978	- Pope at 58
13 May 1981	- Assassination attempt, bullet through the abdomen; - Just missed the heart
1981 August	- Surgery for viral infection
1992	- Malignant colon tumor removed
1993	- Dislocated his shoulder in a fall
1994	- Broke thigh bone (femur) after a Fall; arthritis in the knee
1995	- Bad fever at Christmas – tremors
1996	- Appendix removed
1999	- Influenza; 3 stitches in forehead after slipping; Parkinson’s disease
2001	- Couldn’t carry Good Friday cross
2002	- Could not perform the ritual of washing of feet; bad year for his image: tremors, speech, gait
2004	- Couldn’t walk
2005	- Two bouts in hospital; - urinary tract infection; - Fever and heart failure
2 April 2005	- Life journey ended at 84.