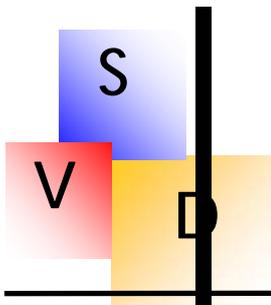


1 THIRD AGE NEWSLETTER

*Vol. 1, No. 3
March 15, 2008*



Third Age Group—February 15 to March 30, 2008

Message

We have just finished the third week of our Third Age Program. On the fourth week we're entering a new phase. But first let us recap what we have had since we started.

INTRODUCTION: To open the course we had an orientation talk followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. Then our General Superior, Fr. Antonio Pernia, gave us a talk on the state of the SVD.

FIRST WEEK: This was the settling down phase and we started to form our community by sharing of life-stories. This took three days. Then the second half of the week, the coordinators of the four Characteristic Dimensions of the Society shared to us what they are doing as coordinators.

SECOND WEEK: For three days Bubi Scholz showed with us models for Third-Agers from the Bible, i.e. Abraham, Moses, Simeon, Hannah, etc. The other three days, Fr. Frank Gerry explained how to live out our vows in a contemplative manner.

THIRD WEEK: For whole week, Fr. Roger Arnold, from USA currently working in Zambia, helped us to design our Third Age transition by explaining many aspects of our psychology. On the last day, Roger gave us an emotional farewell talk and we gave him the traditional sign of warm appreciation by clapping our hands loudly and then pressing them to our breast.

FOURTH WEEK: We will spend on a Guided Retreat. We have six SVD spiritual guides who will accompany us on the way. We shall be in complete silence: no internet, no TV or any form of

PARTICIPANTS In the 3rd age Program

DESIGNING 3RD AGE TRANSITION

NAMES	ORIGIN
Fr. Akkara, Thomas	Kerela, India
Fr. Barlage, Henry	Germany
Fr. Bunanig, Victor	Philippines
Bro. Champagne, Donald	Wisconsin, USA
Fr. Davitt, Norman	Birmingham, England
Fr. D'Souza, Jerome	Karnataka, India
Fr. Dungdung, Marcel	Orisa, India
Fr. Ethakatt, Paul	Kerela, India
Fr. Dominador Flores	Abra, Philippines
Fr. Ganggu, Alexander	Lewat, Indonesia
Fr. Goyeneche, Lorenzo	Navarra, Spain
Fr. Hagenmaier, Hermann	Tettang, Germany
Fr. Jeronimo, Jose Hipolito	Castelo Branco, Portugal
Fr. Kaniyaparambil, James	Koodalboor, India
Fr. Krol, Anton	Netherlands
Fr. Leyden, Tom	Ballinrobe, Ireland
Fr. Maliekal, John	Meladoor, India
Fr. Mercado, Leonardo	Cebu City, Philippines
Fr. Mertes, Robert	Illinois, USA
Bro. Mullen, James	Philadelphia, USA
Fr. Nunnenmacher, Eugen	Weingarten, Germany
Fr. Ohlinger, Vincent	Iowa, USA
Fr. Perumbil, Joseph	Kerela, India
Fr. Phillips, Rogue	Mumbai, India

Fr. Roger Arnold flew in from Zambia to be our presenter for the third week of our program. "Flew" would be the accurate description of his presentations which were the equivalent of a three unit graduate course in Psychology crammed into a period of six days.

While the handouts were often daunting, Roger illustrated the concepts with a treasure of illustrations both from personal experiences and those arising from his professional and teaching careers.

Among Roger's professors were Bernard Lonergan and Magma B. Arnold, an awesome twosome! For us, long out of psychology class, the selection of the chapter "Human Development" from Lonergan highly esteemed work, *Insight*, was a proof of the high expectations he had for us. We wrestled with the Law of Integration, the Law of Limitation and Transcendence and the Law of Genuineness. From Magda Arnold we reflected on cognition and memory and human emotion.

From a chapter of *Aging Well* by George Vaillant we valiantly dealt with the six stages of adult development. Generativity, the passing on of wisdom of our advanced years, was particularly pertinent to our group.

Eric Erickson spoke of the stages of human development. For those sixty-five year and older, the minimum age for admission to the Third Age Program, the basic strength, he likewise declared, was wisdom. That's us! It must be true!

Towards the end of the course, we reviewed Simone Weil's message on the relationship of study to prayer life and learned that study trained us to attention and attention is the condition to prayer.

What impressed us all was the integrity of Roger's personality. He was articulate, clear of mind, humble and most charming. Zambia is fortunate to have him as we were lucky to have spent a week with him.

Nemi staff

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

READING THE BIBLE

Thomas Leyden, SVD

When a certain practice becomes a daily part of our lives, it is possibly very difficult to say for certain when that practice began or indeed why it began. But we must jog our memories. At a time when I not yet deemed to have entered the Third Age I participated in several marathon road races at international level. It is long distance at one go - 42 Kms, in



fact. But running 42 Kms is not really that difficult, physically perhaps a little, but mentally not really so. Running a marathon race is as mental in the challenge as it is physical. It was more difficult to run 5 Kms in the beginning as to complete 42 Kms at a later stage. It is amazing how many things we believe are not possible to achieve. I have found that to be the case with so many Christians. They do not believe it is possible for them to complete a full reading of the Bible.

I carry on a simple apostolate in East Africa. I encourage and support every Christian to complete a full reading of the Bible. For several years now I read the full Bible every two months - six times each year. I get asked the expected questions about

praying the Bible, understanding the Bible, even having possession of the Bible copy. It is somehow easier to address these questions if those who ask are themselves reading the Bible. Starting out, it was much more challenging for me to complete my first full reading of the Bible, irrespective of how long it took in time than it is for me now to do so in the two months. It is the marathon race story all over again.

Of course, motivation is important and to be inspired by well known figures helps enormously. We can listen to St. Jerome who speaks to us of his experience telling us how his desire to read the Word of God was so strong as to keep him awaked most of the time. The exhortation which he addressed to Eustachion concerns us also: "Often read and learn all that is possible. Let sleep sur-



prise you while reading; when you fall, your face will be warmly received by a holy page."

In marathon running, there is a moment midway though the race when you hit a wall. The wall is in mind and the body wants to quit the effort. With the Bible people probably hit that wall when they reach Numbers or Leviticus. Don't quit at that point, because walls can be climbed. ~<<<>>

Editorial Staff:

.. Dom Flores, SVD

. Ray Quetchenbach, SVD



Fr. Henry Barlage, Fr. Joseph Francis, Fr. Hermann Hagenmaier, Fr. Jorge Fernandes, and Fr. Jerome D'Souza waiting for the bus to St. Paul's Basilica.

Praying the Our Father Backwards

During a community mass presided at by Fr. Henry Barlage, former superior general, he narrated an incident which occurred during a visit to revolution torn Angola. After a tedious trip, interrupted by numerous check-points, he reached the station of the SVD men. One showed him a hole in the wall and presented him the bullet which narrowly missed his head. Realizing the grave danger to their lives, Fr. Henry offered the men the possibility of leaving their stations and the country. They courageously opted to remain with the people. The next morning at Mass Fr. Henry suggested that for them the more meaningful way of praying the "Our Father" was by starting at the end, "Deliver us from evil...."

George Schubbe reported that when Noah was loading the ark, the animals were all in a line eager to get in before the rain began. In the line was an elephant and just ahead of it was an ant. In exasperation the ant turned to the elephant and exclaimed: "Quit pushing!"



Marcel Dung-

**Rise in the presence of the aged,
Show respect for the elderly."**

IRISH PHILOSOPHY

There are only two things to worry about,
Either you are well or you are sick.
If you are well,
Then there is nothing to worry about.
If you are sick,
there are two things to worry about. Ei-
ther you will get well or you will die. If you
get well,
There is nothing to worry about.
If you die,
There are two things to worry about.
Either you will go to heaven or hell.
If you go to heaven,
There is nothing to worry about.
But if you go to hell,
You'll be so damn busy shaking hands
With your friends.
You won't have time to WORRY !!!

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