


the second day of the Chapter we elected delegates to the General Chapter along with the substitutes. Then much discussion followed about what insights we wanted to bring to the General Chapter.

The Chapter officially ended with a mass in the cemetery chapel, recalling especially the founding witness of Fr. Xavier for the

Indian vicariate. Most delegates then travelled overnight to Mangalore for the final professions of Brothers Jacob and Anthony the next day, a fitting postscript for a growing Region.

Austin Hughes scj
Regional Superior

Region

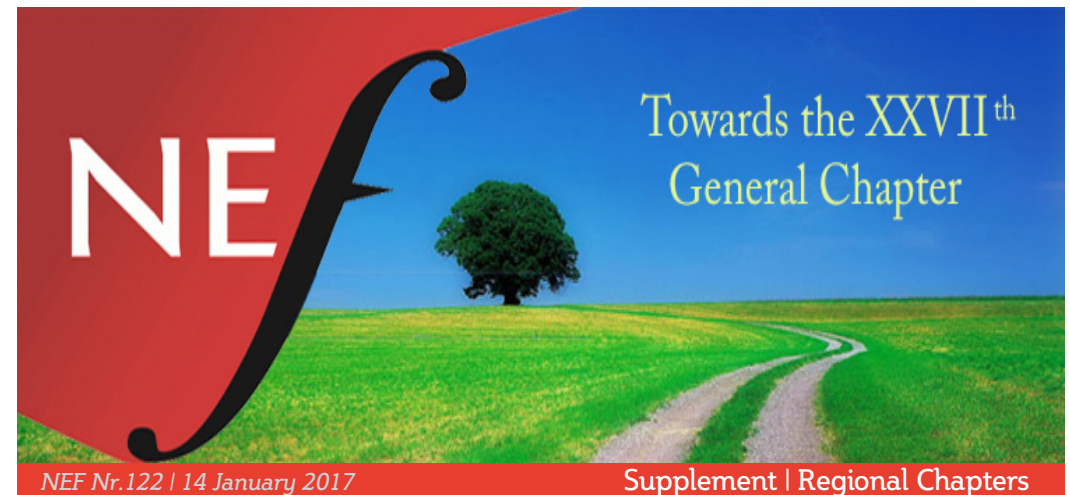


DELEGATES AND SUBSTITUTES FOR THE REGION SAINT MARY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2017

Deputies by right:
Fr. Austin Hughes, Regional Superior

Deputies and substitutes elected during the Regional Chapter

<i>For the Vicariate of England</i>	<i>For the Vicariate of India</i>	<i>For the Vicariate of Thailand</i>
Deputy Br. Gerard Sutherland	Deputies Fr. Biju Anthony Panthaloorkan Fr. Stervin Selvadass	Deputies Fr. Tidkham Jailertrit Fr. John Chan Kunu
Substitute Br. Andrew Ferris	Substitutes Fr. Livin Fernando Fr. Shaju Kalappurackal	Substitutes Fr. Phairote Nochatchawan Fr. Kriangsak Kitsakunwong



REGIONAL CHAPTER I REGION SAINT MARY OF JESUS CRUCIFIED

From November 7th to 12th in Bangalore (India)

A new generation finds its voice

The changes in six years: Seventeen delegates met at Shobhana Shaakha for the Chapter of our Region. We should have been twenty, but two from Thailand were unable to get visas, and England was missing one due to a misunderstanding about eligibility. In any case the fragility of the England vicariate would hardly have permitted another member to be absent from the UK. So we were a larger group than the 11 delegates that met at Olton in 2010 for the previous Chapter, and the voice of the younger generation was very much in evidence. Since 2010 our Regional numbers have more than doubled, with major growth in the Thai and India vicariates and some obvious fragility in the England vicariate, with numbers there are holding steady only with assistance from outside.

The kindness of the host community: Shobhana Shaakha community made generous space to accommodate us all and the young students (Novices and Philosophers) were extremely kind and hospitable. Fr. George Matthew looked after transport arrangements; Fr. Biju Anthony looked after food and accommodation and Fr. John Britto looked after secretarial and printing needs. Each vicariate took it in turns to animate the prayer and liturgy for the day, and each morning session began with some *lectio divina* on the gospel of the day. For the first three sessions each vicariate took it in turns to give a summary of the state of their own vicariate and to share about the six areas below, highlighted in the 2011 Acts of the General Chapter.

Ongoing Formation: All three vicariates now have regular meetings with time for faith sharing during fellowship gathering. There are opportunities for specialist courses and retreats. For some young religious the first three years after ordination involve some very rapid 'ongoing formation'. E.g. learning a new language and culture; learning about parish management and ministry; learning about education ministry and management of large schools; new responsibilities for communities; learning about child care, sabbatical and renewal programs etc.. Those who serve in formation as formators undergo refresher courses to deepen their effectiveness of their ministry.

International Fraternity: All three vicariates have also been implicated in forming **international community**, with generous contributions from India & Thailand in France, UK, Vietnam and Israel. England communities have continued their tradition of welcoming the service and presence of religious from abroad. Thais & Indians expressed the feeling that adequate preparation is necessary both for the individuals who go abroad *and for the host communities who receive them* to take account of the reality of cultural differences and expectations. The England vicariate was not able to offer members for overseas service at present but grateful mention was made of the past services of Bro.Gerard and Bro.Michael in India, and Fr.O'Malley in Thailand. Bro.Gerard may soon be in a position soon to offer himself to serve in India for some short periods. Great gratitude was also expressed for the pioneering work in India of Fr.Enrico and Fr.Mirande. (Who

sadly died a few days after the Chapter)

Economy of communion: Economy of communion the younger vicariates have made some strides towards economic self sufficiency, though generous external help is still needed for college fees in Thailand and maintenance expenses in India. All vicariates have struggled a little with accounts, but these are getting back on track. England vicariate continues its generosity in providing very large sums of money for India, and for the next few years Vietnam as well. In Thailand the priests put their diocesan stipends and other income at the disposal of the vicariate in order to support the formation house and other expenses. In the early stages of the Indian Vicariate missions were dependent

on the Vicariate but now they are more or less self sufficient. The values of shared responsibility and the promotion of self sufficiency have to be encouraged in vicariate levels.

Vocation animation: Both Thai & Indian vicariates seem to do very well in this area, though it only takes one or two bumpy years to make people very anxious for the future. Younger Thais have suggested recruiting in other parts of the country (e.g. North East). England vicariate has struggled in this area for 20 years now but continues to keep faith with the charism. There is a feeling that the presence of younger religious in the UK from other vicariates could help stimulate vocations. Welcoming vocations to Betharram should be a matter of quality

over quantity and of reliance on providence before financial security.

Lively & fraternal communities: All vicariates have tried to take this seriously when living the Charism of community life, but it is not always easy when a brother is going through a crisis. Sometimes the strain of this can upset the balance of community life, an issue perhaps in formation houses. The superiors have worked hard to create happy communities, and we now have twice as many formally constituted communities as in 2010. This is a very positive sign. In this perspective forming a community-in-mission needs to take account of the local reality of mission places, and a care for the individuals concerned. A wider vision of living and building community life should be considered. For example, for exceptional situations, persons could live in different mission centres under one community with one common community project.

Vietnam mission: Both Thailand and India vicariate have been heavily implicated in the Vietnam opening and have made great sacrifices here by giving up key personnel for the mission in Ho Chi Minh City and helping with formation at Sampran & Mangalore. The England vicariate while not involved personnel-wise has pledged some financial support (10,000 € per year for 5 years) to support Vietnam mission. A clear pathway for implementing this project needs to be spelled out, that respects the concerns of other vicariates in this region regarding finance and personnel.

Delegates to the General Chapter: On

