



# GABRIELITE VOICE...

## A GSJP NEWS LETTER

(Gabrielist Secretariat for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation)

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Fratelli Di San Gabriele, Via Trionfale, 12840, 00135, Roma, Italy.

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## "Blessed are the Peacemakers"

This was the title of Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 46<sup>th</sup> World Day for Peace, on January 1, 2013.

In the world, passions can be seen easily and friendship must hide itself. Does not our mood, good or bad, show our commitment to the truth? If building a harmonious relationship is based on truth, freedom, love and justice, let us work, through the year 2013, so that peace is not only a dream, or even an utopia but also a reality that is a factor of integral

development of peoples.

**Bro. Ambroise Désiré NDOUGOU** – Executive Secretary, GSJP

## Brother Daniel's Legacy

In his final interview, Cardinal Martini asked where we could find heroes among us to inspire us, in such a way that the Spirit can spread itself everywhere. Br Daniel was such a person - a pioneer in inter-faith relations, reaching out to everyone whatever their creed or lack of it.

In this Year of Faith, when Catholics are urged to deepen their own faith and learn to live Gospel values more radically, it is useful to look at people who did just that and learn from them. Daniel has a lot to offer us not just in terms of our own faith but also in how to relate to people of different faiths, which is necessary if we want to build a united world free from war and conflict.

Looking at Br Daniel's writings, especially his major work *Transcendence*, in which he compiled extracts of sacred texts from different religious sources, on a variety of themes, a number of things stand out: his





genuine love of the prayers and Holy Scriptures of all faiths; his constant quest for unity - there is a sense of commonality within his choice of texts; the universality of the texts - anybody can say the prayers as if they came from their own tradition; the texts point to and give glory to God, the Transcendent, the Other, the Ultimate Reality.

Daniel did not just have a love for the different Holy Scriptures, which he kept wrapped in beautiful cloths in a place of honour in his home, but he had a love for all humanity. He lived the Gospel message of love of God and love of neighbour fully.

In the years I have been involved in Westminster Interfaith, I have been very conscious that I am walking in the steps of Daniel, who trod the path of inter-religious dialogue many years ago. It is a responsibility but it is also a great joy. When I meet people of faith from different traditions, they always remember Daniel with great fondness and respect as one of their own. They show me the same love and respect they showed Daniel. He was really able to make himself one with everybody. He put himself in their shoes.



Daniel recognised the differences between the faiths. He was not afraid to talk about them openly but he always looked to what unites not what divides.

The presence of so many people, young and old, of different faiths, from near and far, who gathered at St Anselm's, to remember and honour this pioneer of inter-faith relations bears witness to the gift Daniel was granted. He was able, by the grace of God, to enter into intimate spiritual and human communion with all people and play a significant role in helping to build a better world, free from prejudice and discrimination, where peace and universal brotherhood are the rule, even if only on a small scale, with his friends and neighbours.

May the work Daniel started 30 years ago in Southall continue to flourish and bear fruit that will last.

**Jon Dal Din** - Taken from Westminster Interfaith Newsletter November 2012.

In the Web-Site: [www.stgabrielinst.org](http://www.stgabrielinst.org)

- Dedication of Brother Daniel's Plaque
- Bishop Alan blesses Brother Daniel's Plaque
- From Brother Daniel's Diary
- Brother Daniel's Published Writings



## MYANMAR REFUGEE YOUTH RECEIVE TRAINING AT MONTFORT BOYS TOWN

Montfort Boys Town in Shah Alam, Malaysia took a first step in assisting refugee youths to take up skills training. There are some twenty over thousand Myanmar youth who are refugees in Malaysia. It will take them several years before they may be adopted by a third country under the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Office in Kuala Lumpur. In collaboration with the Archdiocesan Office for Human Development (AOHD) and the UNHCR, Montfort Boys Town has piloted the first batch of seven Myanmar Refugees Boys in their training programme on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 for an initial six weeks training programme.

<p><b><u>BEFORE LEAVING</u></b> AOHD PREMISES</p>	<p><b><u>ARRIVED AT</u></b> MONTFORT BOYS TOWN</p>
	

The seven Refugees boys are from different ethnic groups and religion. Two of them in the welding course are Karen (One is a Christian and the other a Buddhist). As for those in the Baking workshop they are five of them, of which three are from Mon state (Buddhist) and two are Chin (one a Catholic and the other a Christian). Despite their diverse and mixed ethnicity, they have shown unity among themselves.

<p><b>WELDING WORKSHOPS</b></p>	<p><b>PASTRY AND BAKERY</b></p>
	

Every Sunday, AOHD Staff (Josie Tey) and the community leader of the Mon group (Mon Refugee Organization) and Burma Refugee Organization visited the boys at Montfort Boys Town. On top of that, the AOHD Staff conducts two hours of holistic activities to help the boys make integration.



A guided Journaling book was prepared to help them integrate activities and gather what they have learned for the whole week



A session on acknowledging individual qualities and recognizing the qualities of others



The objective of this team building workshop is to touch on the importance of unity. Many were able to recognize the importance and the fruits of unity, participation and attentiveness.



Mental health officers gave session on how to cope with depression, fear, anxiety, HIV and also how to breathe correctly.



An activity on decision making was done to help them to decide if they continue for the 6 months (Basic Course) and 6 months (Intermediate) or they would want to leave.

Finally on 8th July 2012 (Sunday) the seven Myanmar Refugees Boys successfully completed the six weeks course and six of the boys decided to continue for another six months programme which is 'One' for



welding and 'Five' for pastry and bakery. The other boy's interest is to take up Motor Mechanic but unfortunately the course is full.

<p>Graduation Day of the seven Myanmar Refugee Boys on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012</p>	<p>Group photo: AOHD Executive (left) and Montfort Executive (right) and family members, community leaders and friends (in between)</p>

**THE JOURNEY OF THE MYANMAR REFUGEE BOYS CONTINUES FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS**

**Six Month Basic course**

	<p>The boys returned from their home leave on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 to continue their training for a six months basic course in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welding: 1 boy</li> <li>• Pastry and Bakery: 5 boys</li> </ul>
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Six of the refugee boys returned to take on the six months course. Another additional new comer joined these six boys but to do Computer Maintenance. This 16-year old boy, who spoke fairly good English, was happy to be admitted into Montfort Boys Town. He hoped to gain some skills in repairing computers. He also hoped that one day he would be able to go to Australia.



## COMBINED JUSTICE AND PEACE INITIATIVES BY THE RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS OF INDIA (CRI)

The National Conference of Religious, India (CRI) had been searching together to reach out to the religious who are committed to the cause of the less privileged of the society. Thousands of religious, through their various approaches to Justice and Peace works (social work involvement) are empowering the poorest of the poor, the excluded, and those at the periphery. In order to facilitate this CRI Secretariat at Delhi started a new wing to coordinate these Justice and Peace initiatives of all the Congregations in India, which is named as CRISEC (**CRI Socio Economic Concerns**).

As the first step, National CRI conducted recently a survey to collect the data of the JPIC works done by the Religious of India. The data received is very encouraging to learn that there is a major shift in the deployment, out of 1, 25,000 religious, one third of them are in Justice and Peace work. It has indicated that about 40,000 religious have moved to the Justice and Peace ministry wholly or partially in order to address the concerns of the poor and marginalized of the country. It also shows that some of these religious social work units are well organized and registered, while some others are voluntary actions of individuals and communities.

As a follow up of this survey, an ongoing training for Justice and Peace coordinators (Social Work Coordinators) of various congregations (more than 300 of them) across the country is being initiated; and they are planning to take steps to empower all with a national identity and greater competence to respond to national and local JPIC issues. They want together to make difference in the lives of the hundreds who suffer injustice, abuse, oppression and exclusion.

(Taken from CRI News, India)

THE NEXT ISSUE OF "GABRIELITE VOICE" WILL BE PUBLISHED  
IN **April 2013**. ALL THE PROVINCE COORDINATORS OF JPIC ARE  
REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR NEWS BY **15<sup>th</sup> OF April** TO:  
[sgjpic@stgabrielinst.org](mailto:sgjpic@stgabrielinst.org) and the postal address is: **GSJP, Fratelli di  
San Gabriele, Via Trionfale, 12840, 00135, Roma-Italia**