

# MISSION



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## NEWS AND VIEWS

AUTUMN 2011

# Home away from home

*"I was a stranger and you made me welcome," (Matt 25:25).*

Stella Maris Seafarer's Mission Statement is to provide 'a home away from home to all the Seafarers regardless of race, colour or creed.

Columban Fr Tony Cox's association with Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre in Melbourne goes back over 15 years when he worked with the Melbourne Harbour Trust Commissioners. It was then that he developed a fascination with ships before entering the seminary.

Each week Fr Tony is accompanied by Bob Grech, Ship Visitor, who has worked with Stella Maris for the past 40 years. They visit the ships in the Port of Melbourne and meet up with Seafaring men and women who endure many challenges at sea such as piracy, dangerous seas, loneliness and isolation from family and friends.

In the course of a day Fr Tony visits six or seven ships and assists in ensuring that the spiritual, social, physical and material needs of the crew are met.

Fr Tony celebrates Mass on board, blesses new ships and spends time just talking and sharing life experiences over a meal with the Captain and crew.

For those in Port this year, Easter ceremonies were celebrated and were attended by volunteer staff, Catholics and many from other creeds who joined in prayer.

Each visit to a ship presents new challenges but with the co-operation and the support of the Shipping Agents and the Port Staff and Security, these challenges are met.

As Fr Tony says "walking up the narrow gangways to the tops of these big ships is a bit daunting, but knowing that the Apostleship of the Sea acts for the Church among the Peoples of the Sea, highlights one aspect of mission - *the service of hospitality*."

*Interested volunteers can contact Fr Tony Cox at Stella Maris on (03) 9629 7494.*

## 2012 Columban Calendar turns 90



The first Columban Calendar was printed in 1923 and has become something of an institution in Australian Catholic homes. The Calendar publishes practical liturgical and inspiring works of religious art.

We are in the process of sourcing archival material for the 2012 special edition.

*Can you help?*

*We are missing the cover of the 1923 edition.*

*We are looking for short articles from our benefactors on how the Columban Calendar has made difference in their lives.*

*If you can assist please contact the Columban Mission Centre on*

*(03) 9375 9475*

*info@columban.org.au*



*Fr Tony Cox (left) with Bob Grech (third) and members of Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, Melbourne.*

# Showing the way

Columban Fr Ray Scanlon from Essendon made a return visit to Korea in February 2011 to attend the ordination of our newest Columban priest, Gregory Youngin Kim.

Fr Ray was thrilled to be able to attend the ordination as he had been involved in Gregory's formation in Chicago and Seoul.

Gregory Youngin Kim was ordained by Bishop Andrew Yeom, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Seoul, in the Jegidong parish church on February 26. Fr Gregory Kim is the eighth Korean Columban to be ordained.

Fr Gregory will take up an appointment to Peru where he spent two years as a seminarian on his first mission assignment.



Fr Ray Scanlon (left) and newly ordained Fr Gregory Youngin Kim in Korea.

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## It's not just a job

In April 2005 we began the *Pedaling to Live* program to assist the poorest families in Ozamiz City, Philippines. Six years on the program continues its work. Today we have a total of 85 tricycles in operation and we also provide scholarships for the children and medical assistance.

Recently Fr Oliver McCrossan wrote about the new housing project which has now built six houses.

"I am privileged to belong to the community that has grown among our drivers, their families and the staff of the cooperative program. I admire and respect their daily struggles to feed their families and their support for one another.

The living standards have improved as a result of the project and the generosity of our Columban supporters. I feel that I have been invited and called by God. It's not just a job for me; it is a way of living. Like the *Pedaling to Live* Program, the beneficiaries of our housing program will own their own homes when they have finally completed their payments. The income from the payments will be used to build more homes. The majority of people in Ozamiz City are living in shocking conditions."

From all of us in Ozamiz, thank you to all our benefactors for your help.

Fr Oliver McCrossan SSC



New homes thanks to Columban benefactors.



## Columban receives Global Justice Award



Columban Fr Sean McDonagh SCC received the *Eighth Annual Partnership for Global Justice Award* on May 1, 2011.

The award ceremony was held at the Church of St Paul the Apostle in New York City. It was followed by an orientation symposium in preparation for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development that took place at the United Nations in May 2011.

Fr Arturo Aguilar, Director of the Columban U.S. Region, had this to say, "We celebrate this honour and are grateful to Sean for his pioneering work. This recognition reflects both Sean's individual contribution to a global community of people committed to JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation) and the Society's conviction that JPIC is at the heart of preaching the Gospel and Columban mission."

Fr Sean was recognized in Washington, D.C., at a reception on May 16, 2011, organised by the Columban Centre for Advocacy and Outreach (CCAO), where local partners, friends and supporters of Columban mission gathered to celebrate.

## Former Columban Superior General dies



*Fr Nicholas Murray was Superior General of St Columban's Mission Society from 1988-2000.*

Nicholas (Nick) Murray was born on April 11, 1938, in Ballymacward, County Galway, Ireland. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1962.

He was the oldest of his family and he seemed to have a great relationship and understanding with his father. He brought that understanding of authority forward to every phase of his life.

His disciplined reliability was part of his character - a man who never forgot to reply to a letter or to answer a phone call - even the oppressive heat of the Philippines didn't take that away from him.

Assigned to the Philippines in 1963, he spent the next 22 years working in Luzon parishes, and later as Chaplain and Director of Student Catholic Action in the Archdiocese of Manila.

His leadership skills and his capacity for administration were soon noted and he was appointed Director of the Philippines Region 1981-1985. He was in office during the 'Negros Nine' case.

Fr Nick returned to Ireland in 1985 and spent two years fostering vocations. He was then appointed Director of the Irish Region and at the Society's General Chapter in 1988, he was elected Superior General.

He served for six years and was then re-elected for a further term in 1994, something that had not happened since the early years of the Society.

A man of great integrity, a hard worker, one who related easily with fellow-Columbans and others, Fr Nick was never happier than when visiting the members in mission regions. In an era of great change, he brought stability, purpose, good humour and boundless energy to every task.

Fr Nick Murray fought the good fight and did not complain. He died in St Francis Hospice, Raheny, Dublin, on April 21, Holy Thursday.

May he rest in peace.

*Fr Gerry French SSC*

# Columban News



## Fr William (Bill) Moran

Fr William Moran will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on July 23. He lives in Essendon and works part-time at the Columban Mission Centre. Congratulations to Fr Bill.



## Fr Ray Scanlon

Fr Ray Scanlon is working at Columban Mission Centre in Benefactor Relations. He has also been appointed House Superior at the Columban House in Woodland Street, Essendon.



## Fr Frank Carey

Fr Frank Carey was home from the Philippines in April 2011. He recently took up a new appointment as House Manager at the Columban Vacation House in Baguio City. He will travel back to CELL (Centre for Ecozoic Living and Learning) in Silang on a regular basis.



## Fr Anthony (Tony) Cox

Fr Tony Cox is having a busy year with promoting *The Far East* in the Sandhurst Diocese. He is also engaged two days per week in Mission Education at Penola, Broadmeadows and Mount St Joseph's, Altona. In addition to his already busy schedule he is Chaplain for Seafarers at Stella Maris, Melbourne.



## Fr George Hogarty

Fr George Hogarty recently returned to Peru after visiting family and friends in Melbourne. He spent time at Columban Mission Centre writing articles for *The Far East* and the web. He also provided many photos of his work in Peru. The front cover of the April issue of *The Far East* was a photo that Fr George took on a Good Friday pilgrimage in Peru.

## Stations of the Forests Order Form

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Following the format of The Stations of the Cross this prayerful resource laments the stages in the death of part of God's Creation. It incorporates issues related to rainforest destruction: extractive industries, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

A Booklet accompanies the DVD, providing the script, an agenda for meetings, a reflection on the Stations, and prayers or available for use online at [www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)

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