

## AT THE FRONTIERS

*In little known and in famous places, ignatian spirituality continues to unfold. In Brazil, a new use of an established method helps the young help one another. In France, discerning hearts led the Company to re-structure the apostolate of spirituality; and in Hong Kong, discerning hearts led to a new priority. In Australia, the laity are leading spiritual formation. And a plurality of ethnic and racial groups have led to the establishment of a new Ignatian Center in California. Meanwhile, from centers like Colombia's CIRE, Jesuits continue to get help in praying Exercises and Constitutions.*

26

FLORIANOPOLIS WOULD NOT BE ON EVERYONE'S MENTAL MAP OF BRAZIL. But it demands some little attention from any ignatian colleague--lay, Jesuit, or religious--who works with the young in our colleges and universities. For the Jesuit college there, Colégio Catarinense, offers an excellent instance of a worldwide development in ignatian spirituality: Christian Life Communities for the adolescent and the young adult. Jesuit Brother Dário Schneider reports: Nine groups--called "pre-CLC" in Brazil--have formed in Florianópolis to share experiences, make a review of life, and work at clarifying personal vocations. Two of the groups are composed of graduates of the Colégio Catarinense who are now university students or young professionals. They have all made numerous weekend Exercises and many of them have made eight-day retreats. Members of these two more mature groups animate and facilitate the other seven, whose members are still students at the Colégio. Both older and younger groups gather weekly. And the younger groups, through a program structured in three stages, are gradually introduced into ignatian spirituality. So the older help the younger and are helped by them, in ways matured in Jesuit education before the publication of the *Ratio Studiorum* and included in it. Contact: Brother Dário Schneider, S.J., or Brother Valmir Luiz Delfes, S.J. / Rua Esteves Júnior, 711 / 88015-530 Florianópolis, SC / Brazil. From abroad: FAX +55-48 222 6327.

HONG KONG - MACAU, A REGION WITH FORTY-ONE JESUITS, belongs to the Chinese Province. After recent epochal events, of course, the region and the Jesuits now belong, as it were, to China. Everyone asks, Now what? The Jesuits asked that of themselves. Through a careful process of study and reflection guided by Fr Superior Alfred Deignan, they have decided: For the near future, Jesuits in Hong Kong will emphasize spirituality. Specifically, they will focus on retreat work and on spiritual formation of the laity. They find the people of Hong Kong--even apart from the

upheaval, and especially the young--thirsty for spirituality. They have established a team of full-time and part-time members to work at formation and at retreats. Jesuits have already collaborated with religious and laity to form spiritual guides and are intensifying that commitment. They will develop their retreat work with a team of three thoroughly prepared and experienced men. The three live in the Jesuit retreat house that clings to the edge of cliff on the island of Cheung Chau, facing mainland China in the distant haze. They must experiment--as must the directors of many of the 250 other Jesuit retreat houses--to find the right combinations: pure *Spiritual Exercises* and other exercises, silence and holy noises, conducting house activities and hosting activities of other groups. Meanwhile, back in the city, the past director of the retreat house will continue his successful work with family spirituality, while experimenting along with other team members on fresh approaches to spirituality. It figures: in Hong Kong, everything at present is an experiment. Contact: Fr Alfred Deignan, S.J. / Ricci Hall / 93 Pokfulam Road / Hong Kong, China. From abroad: FAX +853 2858 4267.

FRENCH JESUITS, DURING THE PAST YEARS, have made creative changes in their retreat apostolate. Twenty years ago, Fr Maurice Giuliani opened a spirituality center in an apartment in Paris and began leading exercitants through the Annotation 19 Exercises, as reported in this review, #85. A few years ago, the province sought new ways of collaborating with the laity in two places. It turned over a center in Marseille to a lay community, Chemin Neuf, keeping a Jesuit in residence there as a collaborator and animator. Then the province invited the Christian Life Community to take responsibility for the retreat house at Viviers near Grenoble. Six Jesuits cooperate in the work of the center, two of whom reside there. A little more than a year ago, in Toulouse, the province created another kind of transformation of the apostolate. As reported in the last number of this review, the province closed its countryside retreat house and opened a center in the city. The team works in Toulouse and also reaches out to surrounding cities and towns. It reports one keenly instructive development: lively interest in the weekend retreat. The number of weekends offered in one town had to be doubled because of the number of people interested. To date, the province has kept complete responsibility for four other houses: Penboc'h at Arradon, Manrèse at Clamart near Paris (one of the oldest of Jesuit retreat houses); Le Châtelard outside of Lyon; and Le Hautmont at Mouvaux. In every one of these, Jesuits have both religious and laity as collaborators. In the last named, Le Hautmont, the director is a layman. Innovations go on. Contact: Fr Bernard Mendibourne, S.J., Delegate for Spirituality Centers / 20 chemin de Penboc'h / 56610 Arradon / France. From abroad, FAX: +33-2 9744 0881.

COLOMBIA'S CENTRO IGNACIANO DE REFLEXION Y EJERCICIOS (CIRE) has published dozens of *Guías*, small books to guide prayer and to give instruction in ignatian spirituality applied to current realities in Latin America. Many other nations' ignatian centers do the same. CIRE's most recent publication in the series it now calls *Apuntes Ignacianos* gives materials for an eight- or ten-day retreat based on *Constitutions* and *Norms*. The booklet, however, is not just one more to add to the steadily growing list of books on *Exercises* and *Constitutions*. Its author, Fr Alvaro Restrepo (recently named provincial of Argentina) began giving retreats on this theme promptly after GC34, and his experience is visible. He calls his work *Peregrinos con Ignacio*, and makes excellent use of the *Autobiography* and St Ignatius's letters. He supplies in each of two dozen meditations three kinds of material: from the *Exercises*, from Scripture, and from the *Constitutions* and *Norms*, generally adding other short, pertinent sentences from Fr General Arrupe or Kolvenbach or some Company document. In an appendix, Fr Restrepo has added some brief notes on ignatian and Jesuit themes: the three kinds of humility; "Spiritu, corde, practice"; Fr Arrupe on prayer. Contact: The Editors / CIRE / Carrera 10 No. 65-48 / Bogotá 2, D.C. / Colombia. From abroad: FAX +57-1 255 1730.

ONE INNOVATION COMBINES SPIRITUALITY, collaboration with laity, and inculturation. Loyola Institute for Spirituality (LIS) was established in 1997 in response to the extraordinary racial and ethnic pluralism of southern California. Director Allan Figueroa Deck, S.J., counts on his team Mrs Danielle Harper, who will specialize in reaching African American Communities; Michael J. Mandala, S.J., who specializes in Hispanic and African American Communities; and Joseph Tuoc T. Nguyen, S.J., who will concentrate on the Vietnamese and other Asian communities.

The Institute itself sits in the urban sprawl familiar everywhere on the globe, close to several of the massive highways that stitch the sprawl together. The offices are on the grounds of a large retreat house belonging to the Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Joseph; LIS can use the facilities for activities at the center. Such central activities may be rather rare than frequent. For during the past months, the team have visited parishes to ask how they might help. Fr Deck reports that as a consequence, like those at Hasselt in Belgium and in Guelph in Canada, the team plan to do a good deal of work at the parish level. Given excellent support by the province, they are consciously testing ways to apply ignatian spirituality to the complex human situation into which LIS is inserted.

Fr Deck has been dialoguing with Fr Luis Valdez, the new director of the Ignatian Spirituality Center in Guadalajara, and hopes to learn from the experience of Fr Eddie

Mercieca's team in Santiago de Chile. Contact: LIS / 480 S. Batavia St. / Orange, CA 92868 U.S.A. From abroad, FAX: +1-714 997 9588. <loyinst@pacbell.net>

**A**POSTOLIC DISCERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA. Fr Michael Smith directs the Champion Retreat Centre in Melbourne, staffed by Jesuits and laity. He reports on a recent meeting of colleagues in this apostolate, Jesuit and lay, from around Australia: The lay people and the Jesuits involved in the Ignatian Spirituality Apostolate in Australia have just finished a three-day meeting at Canisius College, Pymble, New South Wales. We came up with the resolution (driven by the laity) that in 1999 we institute a program for training people to direct the Spiritual Exercises according to the Nineteenth Annotation. This resolution came as a result of a communal discernment process which has been going for some time in the group, and the people involved in the process are very excited about the outcome. During our meeting some similar programs elsewhere in the world were mentioned that should be contacted for further information. In fact, the team has contacted other programs. Contact: Fr Michael Smith, S.J. / Champion Retreat Centre / 99 Studley Park Road / Kew, Victoria 3101 Australia. From abroad: FAX +61-3 9853 3966. <smithm@werple.net.au>