

A vision, a mission, a prayer

Society plans year-long Jubilee celebration

By John Predmore SJ

The Jesuit Jubilee Year honoring 450 years since the death of St. Ignatius (1556), and 500 years since the births of St. Francis Xavier (1506) and Blessed Peter Faber (1506), officially kicks off on December 3, 2005 on the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Celebratory events are being planned for the coming year across the Assistancy, in the provinces and apostolates.

The slogan "A vision, a mission, a prayer" will be used to highlight the various charisms of the three Jubilarians. Ignatius' vision was that prayer and apostolic activity were not separate, but were necessarily compatible. His mystical visions at the cave in Manresa, Spain, and at prayer in the LaStorta chapel on the way to Rome were foundational for the way the Spiritual Exercises and the Jesuit Order developed. Xavier is known for his mission to the Indies and the East. His apostolic zeal in offering to the people of the world the message of Jesus was marked by a full active life of voyage and discovery that has been replicated by the worldwide Society. Faber's prayer arose from his own experience of the liberation that the Spiritual Exercise gave him, so much so that he became the compassionate Master of the Exercises which he generously offered to others.

Fr. Brad Schaeffer (CHG), president of the Jesuit Conference, remarked, "The charisms of these three Jubilarians remain lively and relevant for us even today. The celebration of this jubilee gives us an opportunity to adapt these charisms to enrich our lives and enhance our ministries" Fr. General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, in a letter to all major superiors in early 2005, also addressed the jubilee year. "We should truly profit from the jubilee year to examine our way of life and taking the means to live more pro-

foundly the charisms received from our Founders, that is to say, in our apostolic prayer, nourished by the Eucharist, in our missionary ardor, in our ministry of spiritual aid to others. May the provinces... all participate in this verification and intensification of our fidelity to the call accepted by Ignatius, Francis and Peter."

Loyola Productions of Los Angeles, headed by Fr. Eddie Siebert (DET) and ably assisted by an international team of Jesuit media professionals, is producing a beautifully designed gift package for trustees, benefactors and major apostolic works which will include a DVD, a viewer's guide and a book containing biographies and texts from the three Jubilarians, a letter from Father General, script quotes, Society statistics and production stills. The multi-language DVD will be in English, Spanish and French with subtitles in Italian, Chinese, Russian and German and will be available for December 3, 2005.

Two major conferences are being planned in Europe. From August 21-26, Loyola, Spain will host an international conference on the history and practice of the Spiritual Exercises; and from October 15-21, international participants will convene in Rome for reflections on the Constitutions and the Jesuit way of governing. On April 22, 2006, in commemoration of the date in which Ignatius and his first companions pronounced their first Jesuit vows and sought the maternal protection of Mary, Mass will be celebrated in Rome honoring Mary, Mother of the Society.

In November, the Ignatian Family Teach-in at the School of the Americas protest will focus on these three Jesuit friends in order to emphasize their respective charisms and to relate it to

the ways in which we can build a more socially just world. The Teach-in, to be held in conjunction with the annual School of the Americas protest (November 18-20), will also draw parallels between the ways in which their companionship developed during studies and our contemporary experience of high school and university reflection.

The 10 U.S. provinces are developing their plans for anniversary celebrations, which include speaker series, Masses, novenas and devotions, and promotion of the Jubilee through province magazines. Universities are also promoting events tied to the academic calendar. The various Jesuit magazines (America, Company, JSEA magazine and the NJN) will run feature articles throughout the year. Next spring, Mary Cabrini Durkin will publish a book called "Ours: Jesuit Portraits," featuring images and illustrations of the history of the Jesuits. Plans are developing for the arts, which includes commemorative medals for gifts and major donors, musical and dance performances, and icons and images of devotion.

The Jesuit USA website (www.jesuitjubilee.org) will contain a calendar of events, biographies of the Jubilarians, statistics on the Jesuit Order, bibliographies of texts, and a collection of images and artwork that will be available for download. The Jesuit Curia website in Rome (www.sjweb.info/Jubilee2006) will contain information about worldwide events.

Predmore (NEN) was ordained in June and is completing his S.T.L. at Weston Jesuit School of Theology. Please contact him at predmoresj@yahoo.com if you wish to suggest ideas or receive more detailed information about the Jubilee events.

