Fr. M. Andrey Garcia IVE was born in Mexico on 04 February 1975 as the youngest of the 14 children. Having done his secondary studies, he entered the novitiate in California in 2002. He continued his formation at Fulton Sheen House of Formation, Washington DC. He was ordained a priest on 29 June 2008 in Washington DC. After the ordination, he worked as Parroquial Vicar for a year and a half. After the maiden ministry, he is sent on a mission to Guyana to render pastoral care to the faithful at Santa Rosa. We wish him all the best.
After the arrival of Fr. Kuruvila, S.J. who now resides at the Human Development Centre, Fr. Tony’s burden of looking after Springlands, Black Bush Polder and Siparuta, on the Corentyne River, has been greatly reduced. These parishes are being looked after by Fr. Kuruvila. He will now be planning with the PLAs and leaders in these parishes, all future events to take place in these parishes.

Fr. Gilburt Camillus, S.J. was back to the Human Development Centre on 23 November 2009. His arrival resumes all academic activities at the centre.

The S.V.P. Conference of Port Mourant, organized a Fun-Day, on Oct. 25th, at the Community Centre, Rose Hall. The parishes of New Amsterdam, Springlands, Black Bush and Alness, were keen supporters, and brought along skilled teams of Dominoes, Cricket and tug-o-war players, and joined in the many other events held on the grounds. It was an enjoyable Day, and truly full of Fun. Food was galore, and some had to be given away, to the far away travellers. Springlands came in a Sugar Truck, singing the sweet songs of Skeldon Estates.

With preparations now begun for Novenas and Christmas, and all the little parties and functions of the many groups, and with Carol-singing behind the decorated village Donkey-cart, its going to be a busy time for all. The Altar-staff is intending to surprise the Parish, and the Sunday School and Teachers are desperately trying to get hold of a simple Pageant. Wish us Good Luck!

Fr. Edwin Thadheu, S.J. joined the Plaisance parish community on the 9th of November after putting an end to his nomadic life in Guyana. It took almost a fortnight for him to learn the pastoral proceedings in the 6 parish community. Since Fr. James Gonsalves, S.J. left for India on home visit on the 13th November, the baton of activities was handed over to Fr. Edwin. Besides the regular masses, the activities undertaken are the Confirmation classes in Victoria and Enmore, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in Plaisance etc. Accompanying various piety groups in their spiritual journey adds to his pastoral experience. After a month of intensive pastoral involvement, Fr. Edwin accredits Fr. Bob Barrow, S.J. with five stars as he accompanies him in the pastoral ministry, teaching him the pastoral nuances he has gained through the decades. Thank you Fr. Bob.

On the 21st the Big Boys and Girls (above 60 yrs) had an evening get together in which they shared not only home-made snacks but also their joy through indoor games. As the nation is busy with LCD strategies, the faithful of the parish took an initiative to distribute environmental-friendly bags to create eco-awareness among the parishioners.

The catholic congregation of Victoria conducted their yearly fair. It could be described as simple and community oriented. Bringing people together for a common cause was the attitude the organizers displayed throughout planning and executing the annual event.

A simple Food Stall at Victoria Fair
Fr. Jaime Lalaguna, MSP has been installed as the Parish Priest of St. Joseph, the Worker Parish, Linden. We wish him fruitful ministry.

The mountain castled village of Karasabai has never been so grateful with Fr Paul Martin, S.J. and Sch Ryan D’Souza, S.J. living with them now. The resident presence has certainly added life into the believing community and a renewed vigour is evident in their celebrations and their own initiatives. The Gospel-sharing communities which were energized by the seminar in the month of August have been a real blessing in bringing the faith alive. The parish team and the believing community together has come forward to make benches for the Church, shelves for the library and the Youth Center and a brand new structure for the presbytery.

Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB and Fr Dermot’s visit to the South Pakaraimas (our mission territory) was a time of grace. Bishop Francis blessed the new church in Pai Pang and the Chapel in Jawari as he made his way to Lethem for the centenary celebrations. He baptized 6 children and confirmed 4 adults while he was in Karasabai. The pilgrims from North Pakaraimas joined us on our way down to Lethem and the presence of our Bishop on this pilgrimage was indeed an uplifting spiritual experience of the shepherd leading his sheep by example.

As for the Jesuit community, Fr Paul has been always an inspiration for everyone around. His unwavering commitment to shepherding the faithful in the different villages has been evident in the admiration people have for him. Sch Ryan accompanied him there is doing his bit as a much-needed companion. He helps out in the school and in the parish, and while Paul is away, he has become the continuing presence of the Jesuits.

Malaria becomes a serious concern in and around Aishalton as the death toll becomes logarithmic. The statistics states that out of 6704 blood smears examined, 351 were parasite positive. Of which 346 are carriers of P. vivax and 5 P. falciparm. Two of the Jesuit regents working in Rupununi are diagnosed with Malaria. We wish them speedy recovery. Hope serious measures are taken by the government to control the spread of the disease.

Thanks for all your prayers. Fr. Oliver Farnum is recuperating after the successful cardiac surgery. He is undergoing the post surgical treatments in St. Clare Medical centre in Trinidad and Tobago.

Fr. Keith Hardless is rendering his motherly care to Fr. Oliver. Thank you Fr. Keith. Let us continue to remember him in our precious prayers.
The month of October ended with the long awaited feast of St. Theresa of Child Jesus, the patron saint of Arapiako, Pomeroon. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration the parishioners shared the fellowship meal and enjoyed the spectacular cultural show thereafter.

To keep the spiritual light burning, Fr. Javier Correa Llano, IVE made an overnight stay after a month for house visit cum blessing. The simple parishioners deemed this annual event as the occasion of heavenly blessings.

The new month bloomed with the PLA meeting at St. Francis Xavier Church at Charity. 9 PLAs ministering the communities on the Essequibo Coast and Pomeroon River exchanged their rich experiences of the various communities in the region.

The real highlight of the month was the Spiritual Exercises preached to the young men and women in two groups at St. Joseph’s Church, Henrietta. Fr. Jean Marie Baudry, IVE (from the US), the retreat preacher directed the 21 participants for 5 days to choose the road less travelled in the light of Ignatian anecdotes. The feedback was quite heartening.

On November 2009, the annual penitential service was conducted at St. John’s, Pomeroon, with an hour of adoration and confession, followed by a Eucharistic Celebration. The attendance was overwhelming and the involvement was fulfilling.

Fr. Humberto Villa, IVE returned on November 12 after his vacation in Argentina. He looks much energized and refreshed.

The month again ended with the celebration of Christ the King feast at the Suddie R.C. Church in the Essequibo region. We enjoyed the feast schedule of the region: Eucharistic fellowship, table fellowship and Cultural fellowship.

After having celebrated the All Saints Day feast mass around 11.30, we pilgrims from Kurukubaru began our long journey towards Lethem. Initially we were just 8 members including Fr. Poulouse Vel-lakada, S.J. and I (Sch. Britto) but eventually our numbers started to multiply. It took four and a half hours to reach Kato, our neighbouring village. The next morning, after a short prayer, 22 of us began our long journey towards Tusening, it took about six and a half hours to reach the day’s destiny. It was a hard and tiring day. We had evening mass as it was All Souls Day. We took to our beds early as we knew that the hardest part would be the journey would be the following day to Yurong Paru, and this proved to be correct as it took almost 9 hours to reach that village.

We had mass in the evening and again the next morning. Since we had almost completely burnt-out all our energies, we took a day off and delightfully enjoyed the hospitality of the people. We felt honored as they just killed a fatted-cow for our sake!!! It was indeed, a much-relished meal.

On 5th of Nov our numbers swelled to 52 as we started on our journey to Karasabai, but this time we had a truck to ferry us across the south Pakaraimas. It was a very rough and bumpy journey which made us wonder whether walking would actually have been better!!! It took us about 6 hours to reach our destination.

By the time we reached there, we were like hungry wolves but all our hunger disappeared when we saw His Lordship Francis Alleyne and Fr.Dermot Preston together with the residents Fr.Paul Martin
and Sch. Ryan D’Souza ready to welcome us with out -stretched arms.

The following day we were 2 truckloads and a tractorful of pilgrims to continue our journey towards Lethem. Now in early December, Fr Gabriel Xess, S.J. has started his work of going around northern villages saying Christmas masses. He has already covered 6 villages which took him about 9 days of walking!!! Despite having problems with his legs, he is doing his best for the flock he shepherds. Let’s support him with our prayers.

We were privileged to have the presence of Fr Antoine Kerhuel, S.J. Fr General’s Assistant for Western Europe and Fr Michael Holman, S.J., the Jesuit Provincial of the British Province, for the centenary celebration of our work in the interiors. In their short span of stay in the region, they meticulously planned out and executed their visitation of the mission stations. Their prayerful presence in the pilgrim bus and their melodious singing inspired the co-pilgrims. Thank you fathers.

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Fr. Antoine Kerhuel (left) and Fr. Michael Holman(right)

Congratulations to Fr Rajan who steered his maiden TV programme through the Catholic Magazine on the subject of the newly-canonized Saint Damien of Molokai.

Life in the new Arrupe house is settling down to a more spacious accommodation and with greater facilities. We thank Fr Dermot, S.J. and his team who saw to minute details of shifting the house. We are still working out some final touches.

In this new scenario Fr Malcolm, S.J. stands as solid as a Kaieteur rock in the swirling waters of his varied apostolates. Fr Harold Wong, S.J. is settling down slowly and steadily after setting his foot into the new environment.

While Fr Anil Tirkey, S.J. is away in India, Sch. Wilson has bravely stepped into his shoes as Minister of the House. Recently he was given charge of a group of Legionaries of Mary from Georgetown for a day of recollection in Kitty. It was well-attended and the feedback received was positive.

Brother Epifanio and his team excel in catering to the spiritual needs of Brazilians who live in Guyana. In the Guyana Karate College, Fr Compton welcomed overseas examiners. Exams took place in 4 Dojos with crowds of youths and parents from many counties. Our many congratulations to him as he was re-elected secretary at the Annual General Meeting.

Deacon Ronald Fernandes was ordained a priest by Rt Rev. Dr Derek Fernandes, the Bishop of Karwar, Karnataka, India on Tuesday, 8 December 2009.

After a year of regency in Berbice, Guyana, Fr. Ronnie did his Theological studies at Heythrop College, London. He is ordained a priest for Guyana region and will be rendering his priestly service to Guyana. We pray that he might be ‘a fire kindling other fires’. Welcome to the presbyterate, Fr. Ronnie.
The centenary celebrations of the founding of the Jesuit mission in Rupununi brought back the spirit of the pioneer missionary Fr Cuthbert Cary Elwes, S.J. Nearly 1000 of faithful from North and South Rupununi, and Georgetown, the capital, joined by Rt. Rev. Francis Alleyne OSB, Bishop of Georgetown, Rt. Rev. Roque Paloschi the Bishop of Roraima, Brazil, Fr Michael Holman, S.J. the British Provincial and Fr Antoine Kerhuel, S.J. from the General’s Curia in Rome, stood witness to the universality of the Church, active interest in the Missions and concern for the Amerindian people.

The beginnings of the Jesuit mission in the then British Guyana undertaken by the British Province go back to 1857. Fr Cary-Elwes established the Rupununi mission in 1909. As the Provincial recalled in his homily in the concelebrated Centenary Mass on 8 Nov, the main reason why missionaries left their homes thousands of miles away and travelled to an undeveloped area like Rupununi, weathering many a hardship, was that people must come to know and experience the living God.

No wonder today there is a large number of Catholics in the Rupununi and Pakaraimas, centred on more than 50 village churches. The energetic singing and dancing during the Mass added local colour and deep significance to the celebration.

Bishop Francis wore a mitre decorated with brightly coloured bird-feathers. The bishop paid glorious tributes to Fr Cary-Elwes and other Jesuit missionaries who had to master many languages, travel miles and miles on foot or horseback or by boat or jeep, face loneliness and disease and be content with primitive means of communication.

The St Ignatius benab was the venue of a three-hour cultural programme that was made of dances in colourful local costumes and singing in voices by the young and the old.
To express the universal solidarity with the Amerindian Catholics in Rupununi, a pilgrim bus was organized from Georgetown. 44 pilgrims from various regions joined this pilgrimage with hope and faith. The pilgrimage started at 9 pm with a prayer and blessing by Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues, S.J. The prayer was followed by the recital of rosary and singing of hymns.

The congregation of the faithful reached Lethem on the following noon after paying a short visit to the much talked “Takutu Bridge”, Brazil.

The pilgrims stayed in various hotels at Lethem and shared the fellowship meal served at St. Ignatius. With ardent faith and warm feelings, all of them participated the cultural show and the Eucharistic Celebration. The presence of these pilgrims at the congregation added colour to the celebration. Enriching, nourishing, memorable, nothing before like this etc. are the words and phrases uttered by the participants.

2009 is the year of Silver Jubilee of the society of IVE. To remember with gratitude all the blessings the congregation has received through these years, we the members of the Congregation here in Guyana came together in union of minds and hearts at Santa Rosa.

The faithful from various parts of the country participated in the Eucharistic celebration and joined their songs of praise with ours. Fr. Humberto, Fr. Javier (from Charity), Fr. Oscar and Fr. Andrey (from Santa Rosa) of the same congregation are the celebrants of the Eucharist. After the Mass, people from different mission stations presented different items during the cultural show.

http://www.catholicdoors.com/links/sermon.htm
http://msjnov.wordpress.com/
http://www.catholicmatters.com/sunday.htm
http://www.homilies.net/
http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html

'A woman went into a post office to buy some stamps for her Christmas cards.
What denomination do you want? asked the lady at the counter.
'Good God!' she replied, Has it come to this? I suppose you'd better give me twenty Catholic and twenty Presbyterian.