

# PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT



## It's our first anniversary!!

First anniversary?? Yes officially July 1<sup>st</sup> marks 1 year since we, the new PFGM National Director Team began our role. So in this newsletter we hope to give you some insights to what we have been doing and Passionist Family Group news from around the country.

As a Director team we meet every quarter in typical PFG style over food and wine to discern, review, share ideas and look into what needs to be done and how it can be achieved.

Sharing our thoughts: Are people regularly invited to join a family group? How visible are PFG in each Parish? How best can we support leaders and foster good relationships?

Each year we meet with the Bishop in each Diocese and are focusing on building relationships with the Parish Priests.

The Family Group webpage is regularly updated. There are a number of new items under resources, like Parish brochures, annual stipend, and hand out sheets covering 2017 formation days topics of marriage, aging and conscience and moral decision-making, and so take a look. [www.passionistfamily.org.nz](http://www.passionistfamily.org.nz)

All the Directors from each Diocese met together in February and each region contributed ideas towards a national vision and strategic plan. It may sound all professional and business like, however mostly it will aim to keep us on track to what the movement has always been about which is 'relationships', inviting, accepting, sharing and caring. *Mary-Ellen & John Leen, Linda & Paul Darbyshire*

## Welcome to the PFGM Holy Family Nelson

In April this year, an amazing 150 people met in St Joseph's school hall in Nelson. These people represented the 400 plus parishioners who had indicated an interest in becoming members at the inception of Passionist Family groups in the combined parishes of St Francis of Assisi Stoke, and St Mary's in Nelson. This amazing response was an accolade to the inspirational energy and commitment of Father Bill Warwick, who, charged with combining two independent parishes in the Nelson region, was committed to the importance of encouraging parishioners to become better acquainted with one another, to the point where they are able to spread true Christianity with care and concern for others mixed throughout the grass roots of these two parishes, now one. What better vehicle to use than the Passionist Family Movement! *View full article by Yvonne on the website.*



## Balloon Homily

On the morning of the 30th April Fr Brian Traynor CP celebrated the masses at St Joseph's of Upper Hutt and what a wonderful celebration they both were! At the homily red balloons were given out to Parishioners of different ages and categories and those people were asked to stand at the front and introduce themselves to each other. Not many knew each other, one woman had been in the Parish two years and only knew one other couple. Sometimes it's so easy for us to go to mass week after week and not know the person in the next seat. Passionist Family Groups help build community - by getting to know another, only then can we learn to love and support one another! A shared morning tea was held in the foyer after the 9am Mass and a sausage sizzle after the 10.30, the foyer was a buzz with chatter! And I heard one Parishioner say to Fr Brian - "Well I've heard many a homily in my time, but that's the first one I've seen and I loved it!"



## Would you like to explore the charism of the Passionists?

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## New Regional Coordinators for Hawkes Bay

We welcome Norma Bellamy and Mary and Peter Arnold as members of the new Regional team for Hawkes Bay. They were commissioned by Fr Brian Traynor at the PFGM Reflection Day held in May. A special thanks was also given to Lynn and Rob Hill and Preston and Jenny Epplett for their service as the Regional team standing down.

## Passionist Institute in Melbourne

The theme of this year's Institute was Hope and Gratitude. Fr's Brian Traynor CP, Chris Monaghan CP, and Tom McDonough CP took turns presenting on this theme across the 3 days. Fr Brian explored hope/gratitude and the Passionist charism: from *A Passionist Heart*, "Although the Passion of Jesus offers no hope without the Resurrection, this Resurrection Hope cannot be experienced unless first we are willing to stay with the suffering". Fr Chris took us on a journey through scripture and showed how hope and gratitude is prevalent within the Old Testament, Paul's letters and the Gospel of Matthew. Fr Tom touched on our emotions by discussing the recent events in Syria: something that affected most people was a video of a Syrian woman giving birth while the war raged on outside, which showed how hope can be found even in the midst of such devastation and suffering. *The full article by Emma Dodsworth is available on the website.*

*Photo: NZ Participants, Finbarr, Shelly, Rob, Lynn, Emma and Graeme.*



### Food for thought for each of us to personally reflect on:

Bishop Charles shared the following in a recent article in the Welcom:

*Sometimes as a Bishop I'm tempted to cry out to our priests and pastoral workers – no more pointless meetings, no more recycled agenda. Let's for 6 months just have one focus for reflection: in whose homes and places have you been, what did you talk about, what did you hear and learn, how was your faith kindled through simply being with others and listening?*

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### Take time to consider:

- When was the last PFGM yearly report sent to the PPC in your Parish?
- Does a reminder for your FG Activity feature in the Parish Newsletter?
- How are FG's celebrated and promoted in your Parish?
- Has your group got a contact list and planned activities for the year?