

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT



Seasons Greetings



Our Brian meets Pope Francis

Brian Traynor CP attended the 47th Passionist Chapter held in Rome from the 6-27 October.

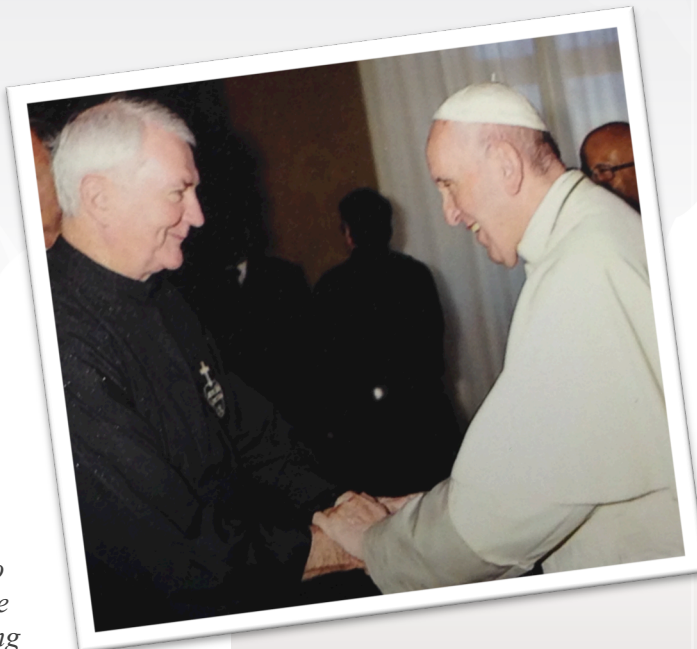
Monday October 22nd, day 17 of the Chapter was their Audience with the Pope. Tom McDonough CP reports:

"There was considerable excitement among the Capitulars, like a class of Year 3's going on an excursion. We were bused to St Peters, to the Apostolic Palace, and then ushered up the 8 flights of stairs (quite a challenge for some) to the Papal Audience room. Once the dining room for the Cardinals!

We waited in subdued silence for 45 min till the Holy Father arrived. He was greeted naturally with great applause.

Fr Joachim CP then read a most beautiful formal address to Pope Francis, which the Pope replied to. His Secretary the Archbishop told us that even at 80 he keeps a punishing schedule, with no holidays and no day off.

Following this each was taken up individually to greet the Pope."



Fr Kevin Hennessy

You should be aware that Kevin had major surgery to remove his spleen, which was significantly enlarged. The doctor told him it probably weighed 3-4 kilos and was the size of a kids footy. The surgery was successful but cancer was found on the spleen. The initial diagnosis is that the cancer is manageable and will respond to chemotherapy once Kevin has recovered his strength. They said it was a similar type to that which Simon O'Donnell the cricketer had many years ago, hence their positive assessment.

As Kevin would say 'Praise God' for modern medicine!!

I know you will all keep Kevin in your prayers for a full recovery.

On the Home Front...

There has been a very full year of happenings within each of our lives and the movement. Between supporting our Regions Mary-Ellen and John have welcomed 2 new grandchildren bringing their total to 5 grandees and Linda and Paul 1 new grandchild and a wedding to bring their total of grandees to 3. We have visited each region providing Formation Days and supporting Leader groups.

Many Parishes have taken the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of 30 years of the PFGM in Aotearoa. These celebrations have been well received. They are a great way of profiling the benefits of the movement, and having fun.

New initiatives like PFGM stalls at School Galas, Treasure hunts to encourage young family participation, Christmas gifts to Mums involved with Crisis Pregnancy Support keep the spirit of the movement alive, visible, building community and spreading the good news of the gospel as Christian people caring and supporting one another.

Check out news from around the regions:

- Parishes celebrating
- Local Articles

www.passionistfamily.org.nz

Australia PFGM has a new web site:

www.pfgm.org

Passionist Retreats NZ has a new webpage:

www.passionistretreats.co.nz

As National Directors we Praise God and give thanks for each of you ... the gifts you generously share, most importantly just being yourself, benefits others in ways you may never know. Certainly these relationships deeply encourage us.... Merry Christmas.



East Coast Bays celebrates 30 years PFGM

On the 29th September 2018, the East Coast Bay's Passionist Families celebrated 30 years in the parish, by holding a Barn Dance, in the St John's School hall, Mairangi Bay. 120 parishioners who joined in the fun, festivities and family unity attended the event. The evening was organised by the Leader Group in ECB Parish and led by a caller and dancers from the Howick Square Dance club. Interaction, fellowship and laughter continued throughout the night. Members from the parish have requested that this becomes an annual event.



Johnsonville Uniting - 20 years PFGM

It is a pleasure to be celebrating 20 years of the PFGM in our Parish of Johnsonville Uniting.

20 years ago and on subsequent occasions, we've been without a Minister and our Family Groups have provided significant pastoral care.

With valued support from the Regional Coordinators Kerry and John Kleinsman, Mary-Ellen and John Leen and Father Brian Traynor, Andrew and I became the Parish Coordinators and four Family Groups (the majority of the church) were formed. I can recall a number of very happy times we had with this 'support team'. With the 'ethos' to 'Love One Another As Jesus Loves Us' we have continued to meet and share, even 20 years later, highly original, low cost, no cost events and support and care for members between these events.

A memorable, moving time for Andrew and I was to be asked to speak at St. Theresa's in Plimmerton on our positive experience of establishing the PFGM in our Parish. At one time this would never have been possible.

This has been a blessing for our Parish and whether we meet as a group of 5 or 25 we look forward to continued fellowship in 2019. *Prue Simm*

Advent

Advent is a time to stop, look and listen, a time to look back and look forward, a time to take stock of our lives, a time to see ourselves as part of the bigger picture of both the Church and the world, a time to appreciate where we have come from and where we are going, a time to remember that all through the days, months and years of our lives, our God has been with us and beside us, and has kept loving us, no matter what.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS AND LOVE
Mary-Ellen, John, Linda & Paul



Save the Date 2019

PFG Days

Wellington Dio 4th May

Paul Traynor

Hawkes Bay 4th May

Brian Traynor CP

Palmerston Nth 5th May

Brian Traynor CP

New Plymouth 7th May

Brian Traynor CP

(To be confirmed)

Christchurch 11th May

Brian Traynor CP

Bay of Plenty 18th May

Paul Traynor

Hamilton 19th May

Paul Traynor

Auckland Dio 25th May

Brian Traynor CP

Passionist retreats

Youth Retreat

Mon 8th – Thur 11th July 2019.

Cost: \$110.00 Camp Rangi Woods
Manawatu

Young Adults

Fri 12th – Sun 14th July 2019

Cost: \$140.00 Magnificat
Featherston

If you wish to make a donation or sponsor a young person to attend a retreat contact Paul on

passionist.retreatsnz@gmail.com

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passionistnz@gmail.com*