

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 120 (3rd June, 2022)

Greetings and welcome to this edition of the newsletter. This will be my last effort this time round as I am also going on a holiday for a couple of weeks. The next couple of newsletters will be sent out by Fr. Erick CP, so if you have any items of news or interest for those letters, please forward them to Erick. I believe that Fr. Brian will then resume editorial responsibilities following his time away and a Provincial Council meeting. Thank you to all of those who have been encouraging of my efforts, and who have sent items to be included in the newsletter.

Passionist News



This coming Sunday is the Province Feast Day and the following article has been supplied for your information:



Pentecost Sunday: Feat day of Holy Spirit Province



In November, 1840, Passionist (now Blessed) Fr Dominic Barberi sailed up the Thames to London. He slept that night in a soft bed in the house of a friend of the Passionists. The next day he went for a month to a seminary ten kilometres north of Birmingham where only Bishop Wiseman who had invited him to England and Father George Spencer showed any sense of a warm welcome.

Soon after his ordination in 1820, Dominic began lecturing in philosophy and theology and he continually prayed for the time when he would become a missionary in England. This became a spiritual obsession, despite the fact that the Passionists did not found a community outside of Italy until Dominic did so in Belgium in 1840.

Dominic had met George Spencer in 1830 in Rome. George who could speak Italian well, had converted to Catholicism and been sent to study in Rome. The two met and shared many conversations, and this enabled Dominic to pursue his own long-time dream and the deeply held hope of Paul of the Cross, that Passionists would work as missionaries in England.

On May 26th 1840 Dominic and four fellow Passionists bade farewell to his religious brothers at St. John and Paul's, Rome to travel to Belgium. He was never to see Italy again. One of his companions was Fr Peter Magganotto, who later formed part of the first Passionist mission in Australia.



In October, 1841, Dominic and Fr Amadeus McBride, an Irishman who had become a Passionist in Italy, arrived again in England to establish a Passionist mission in England. It eventuated that in 1846 (as Fr Ignatius) was professed as a Passionist and worked tirelessly with Dominic in their mission throughout England and in Ireland. Ignatius was a great, great, great uncle of Lady Diana and a great uncle of Winston Churchill.

John Henry Newman (now Saint) wrote: "Father Dominic was a marvellous missionary and preacher filled with zeal. He had a great part in my own conversion and in that of others. His very look had about it something holy. When his form came within sight, I was moved to the depths in the strangest way. The gaiety and affability of his manner in the midst of all his sanctity was in itself a holy sermon. I hoped and still hope that Rome will crown him with the aureole of the saints."

From such a simple and challenging beginning, the Passionists established St Joseph's Province in England and later St Patrick's Province in Ireland. It was formally from St Joseph's Province and their religious as well as personnel from St Patrick's Province that Holy Spirit Australia was officially founded on July 11th 1922. In time, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Vietnam each became joined to the Province.



Message from the Provincial

Dear Passionist Family,

2022 marks the centenary of establishment of our Passionist Holy Spirit Province, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam. So we Passionists invite you to join in our celebrations

The Story

In 1841, Blessed Dominic Barberi established the first Passionist community outside Italy. It was to be a steppingstone to England, to fulfill the dream our Holy Founder, Paul of the Cross. In 1842, Dominic Barberi took the congregation to England, from where it spread further through Britain and then Ireland. It became the St Joseph's Province.

In 1843 small band of four Passionists, three Italians and one Swiss, come to Australia, to Stradbroke Island, to begin the first mission to the aboriginal people. Though the Passionists were present for only three years, the brave efforts were successful in the mission of evangelisation. However, the extreme living conditions and supply were too much for the religious and the mission closed.

In 1887, the next band of pioneers arrived from the St Joseph's province to rebuild the Passionist presence under the Southern Cross. They settled first in Marrickville Sydney, then Goulburn and later Adelaide. The community grew as the first Australians joined, and waves of generous religious came mostly from England and Ireland. These men travelled extraordinary distances and conducted, even in the earliest years huge numbers of parish missions and retreats throughout cities, towns, outback and countryside in Australia and New Zealand. Many returned after five, ten, twenty and some even more, years. A number our brothers also died here without ever returning to see their families and loved ones.

Then, in July 1922, in response to the request by Fr Silvio di Vezza, our Superior General, the Sacred Congregation for Religious in Rome approved the establishment of the new Province of the Holy Spirit.

Three communities and 26 men. In October, Fr Bertrand Mangan, was appointed as the first Provincial. In December Fr. General informed the St Joseph's Province that the Vatican decree was being put into effect.

The Centenary Celebrations

On this feast of Pentecost, 2022, we are proud to announce our "Celebrating the Centenary - The Journey Continues". It will begin on July 11th, the centenary day of decree of Fr General and conclude on December 16th, the day in 1922 when the separation from St Joseph's province took effect.



With gratitude we will thank God for the graces and blessings that have been ours as we have evolved and adapted, growing and changing, responding to the call to keep alive. in our lands of the Asia Pacific, the memory of the Passion, God's overwhelming work of love.

We will remember the many men and women who have lived the charism of St Paul of the Cross, our priests, brothers, sisters, our companions, and benefactors, all the extended and ever-growing members of our Passionist Family

With prophetic hope, we will answer the Spirit's call, not only remembering but looking forward. For the message of the Cross, its resurrection hope is need more than ever it seems, when the crucified of the world, include the very Earth itself.

The Invitations

We invite you to join the prayers, liturgies, celebrations, institutes, webinars with which we will celebrate our journey, a hundred years and more to come. Our newsletters, from the Provincial Office and from our local communities, our Province website and Facebook page will contain details of coming events.

URL addresses

Website – www.passionists.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/HolySpiritProvince

Aus, NZ, PNG and Vietnam PO Box 12, Marrickville, NSW 1475

On this feast of Pentecost 2022, we ask the Holy Spirit, in those beautiful words of the Veni Sancte Spiritus

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, From the clear celestial height. Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, thou Father of the poor, Come, with treasures which endure Come, thou Light of all that live!

Holy Cross News

A couple of announcements from Holy Cross:

Ukraine appeal

Rose Cincotta, the Holy Cross business manager, has advised that she banked \$1090 this week into the Ukraine Appeal account. All donations received at Holy Cross have been passed on, and the generosity shown is most inspiring.

Eggs

For those who normally purchase eggs fortnightly, we have been advised that the next pick-up day will be on Tuesday, June 14th. This will be on the Tuesday, rather than the Monday, due to the public holiday. Also, please be aware that the price of the eggs will increase from \$10.00 to \$12.00.

Thank You from Sr. Brigid

A big Thank you to all who sent messages of support on my recent election to the Congregation's leadership team. Your good wishes and prayers are very much appreciated. We hope to be able to close the General Chapter on Pentecost Sunday. It has been a long journey and now we pray it will be fruitful so your continued prayer support is indeed very welcome. You will always be in our prayers too. Blessings to you all Brigid CP

Upcoming Come Away Day

The following invitation is from the team who organize the Come Away Days:

You are invited to our next Come Away Day, Tuesday 14 June. The theme of the day is "Find the warmth and life within: a time for spiritual nurturing and inner growth." The invitation is to come as you are. All are welcome. No prior knowledge is assumed. All relevant materials will be provided on the day. The day provides an opportunity to come away to a quiet place and rest for a while in the beautiful spaces and surrounds of Holy Cross. There will be opportunities for conversation, fellowship, prayer and reflection during the day. Tea and coffee is available. Please BYO lunch. For further details contact Frank Burke on 0407 998 781 or email burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au

A couple of articles of interest

New cardinal for tiny Mongolian Church (UCA News)



Catholic missionaries in Mongolia have expressed their surprise and joy over the appointment of Italian Bishop Giorgio Marengo who leads the tiny church of some 1,400 Catholics, as a new cardinal. Pope Francis named Bishop Marengo IMC, as one of 21 new cardinals on May 29. He is a member of the Consola Order and has been leading the Mongolian church since April 2, 2020. He will turn 48 this month and he will be the youngest member of the College of Cardinals. He said, "I believe that the pope's gesture was a missionary gesture, to express attention and care to a small community and to all the small communities of faithful scattered throughout the world, in those lands where they are a small

flock."

Sister Usamo, serving in Mongolia said she "Since becoming a bishop two years ago, he has played an important role in strengthening the church as its leader. He has made good attempts to improve relationship with the government and to promote interreligious dialogue. As part of his efforts to promote harmony the Bishop recently visited the pope in Rome with a delegation of Catholics and Buddhists".

Vietnamese Salesian Fr Andrew Tin Nguyen said, "When I heard it first, I said 'whoo!' What does it mean for the Church of Mongolia to have a cardinal? What is God's will? What does the pope want for this church?" He said the church in the "land of Genghis Khan" is small with about 1,400 Christians in eight parishes. The church has a very vibrant life thanks to the services of 66 foreign missionaries (25 priests, 34 nuns, three brothers and three lay missionaries) from 26 countries and only two native Mongolian priests. He expects the new cardinal to make efforts to "raise his voice" to ease difficulties missionaries face in the Central Asian country.



"Missionaries face many difficulties. They are not looking for honour or respect, but they do not have real peace, happiness and freedom to work. The government is so demanding, controlling, checking and taxing. Our voice, our presence is not seen or heard," he explained. Father Nguyen said he loves Pope Francis' vision of not leaving

anyone behind. Even though our church is small, he recognizes it, and he wants to hear from us, from everyone afar. He gives us a chair at the table to sit beside him, to be with him closer and to assist him to govern the universal Church. This is wonderful for the little flock here."

Czech Salesian, Fr Jaroslav Vracovsky, missionary based in capital Ulaanbaatar, hailed Pope Francis' pastoral priorities for the peripheral churches. "Pope Francis many times spoke about putting in the centre of our attention the weakest and abandoned. The Catholic church in Mongolia is probably one of the weakest churches in the world. The appointment of a Cardinal in Mongolia is confirmation of Pope Francis' pastoral criterion," Father Vracovsky said.

Fr. Brian Gleeson's reflection

PENTECOST: HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US
Fr Brian Gleeson CP

Acts 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17; John 14:15-16, 23b-26

All through Easter time we've been reading and listening to that great book, the Acts of the Apostles. While it's about all the apostles of the infant Church, all the missionaries of God's love at that time, it's also about the love of God in person. I'm speaking, of course, about the Holy Spirit, who in the Book of Acts is both God's love in person (Grace) and the chief apostle. Again, and again, the Holy Spirit speaks to people and their needs through other human beings. Again, and again, other human beings act as agents, instruments, and missionaries of the Spirit. That's very significant, for it is still one of the main ways the Holy Spirit gets through to us - enlightening and healing us.

One of our biggest needs as human beings is to grow up and mature. Becoming mature-thinking and mature-acting people involves moving away from selfishness and self-centredness, reaching out to others with interest, care, concern, and compassion, and working with others to make that better world that is God's Kingdom. We learn to do this through our association and contact with other human beings. What's particularly useful, helpful, and important in our dealings with others, and especially with close family and friends, are our conversations. This is especially the case when our chatting to one another gets beyond the superficial, and has to do with what matters most. On both sides, the sharing which takes place is not just listening to the other's words, but also responding. By sharing our insights with an open mind and an open heart, we help one another grow and develop as good, sensible, responsible, and warm-hearted people.

Again and again, if we are to make progress and change our ways of living, it may be necessary to hear and heed from those we talk to, things which are challenging, things which are perhaps even quite painful, but which turn out, at least in the long run, to set us free to become better people. In fact, through the journey of a whole lifetime, we may hear ourselves being called to face many challenges and make many changes.

There's another dimension to all this. In fact, there's a third party in all this. In the words of others, even unintended remarks and chance conversations, God's word may be addressed to us, God's word of truth, the truth that sets us free, delivers and encourages us.

The word of God as it comes to us from others in conversation can be painful. We need strength to reply to the call and challenge which God speaks to us through others. Perhaps what we hear from others stirs up certain fears. Can we, e.g., take the risk of listening to them, even when they are on our side? Isn't there some danger that if we listen to them, our self-esteem may shrink? Isn't there some danger that if we listen to the truth coming from another person, we may end up being psychologically dependent, even under that person's spell?

Faced with such risks, it takes considerable courage to engage in the kind of conversations that will challenge us to become more mature, more responsible, more caring, and more generous people. We find the courage to face the truth only if the other addresses us sensitively, i.e., with respect, with care, and with love. Love is the only way that works. Were we to be brutally confronted with what may be in us, e.g., our anger and superficiality, our resentment and self-rejection, we might crumble to pieces? But the gift of the acceptance, encouragement, and support of the other person creates in us the strength we need – to listen, to know ourselves better, and to accept ourselves as we are, not only with our weaknesses but also with our strengths and possibilities. The gift of the other's care and concern, the friendship and fellowship they offer us, creates in us a deep sense of freedom – freedom to become a better person, freedom to open up and share with others the love and care which has been given to us.

Faced with the risks involved, the freedom to take those risks and let ourselves enter into a life-giving conversation, and share with others, is experienced as both a power and a gift. It's a gift, not something self-generated, a gift given to us by people who love us and care for us. Yet should we start to state what they have done for us and express our thanks, this would be too much. For typically, those significant others we talk to and support us, simply don't realize just how much they mean to us. They may cut us short, or say something like 'it was nothing,' or 'what are friends for?' The strength and support which they communicate to us go beyond what they see themselves as giving. This takes us beyond them as God's instruments to God's self, the ultimate source of that understanding and support that another human being communicates to us.

So, in the conversations, friendship, love, and support, through which we grow and mature, the Holy Spirit of God, the 'Spirit of truth' (John 14:17), is also present as the deeper dimension of the meetings and conversations which change us for the better. This is so true that we can truly speak of certain people who support us and keep us going, as 'Godsends.'

On this feast of Pentecost, then, let us give thanks to God for sending us the Holy Spirit, day after day, the Spirit who comes to us whenever a friend or family member or some significant other tells us what we need to hear, reaches out to us with

support and friendship, and helps us live lives that are more meaningful, fulfilling, and fruitful!

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Our community

We have been asked to pray for **Don Schimanski** who is dying. Don and his wife Wilma are long serving and loyal members of the Passionist Family Groups in New Zealand. We remember them in prayer and pray that they and the extended family will find comfort and peace at this difficult time.

We also remember and pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. This week we particularly remember John Chubb whose first anniversary is on the 8th of June, and **Maria Di Mauro** (Nancy Brajkovic's mother) on the 10th of June.

We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell. We remember especially: Maree Bartoli, Dominic Isgro, Gerry Bond, Jacki Tomm, Peter Owen, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Mary Corkeron, Angelo Vigilante, Lesley Yang, Graham Hille, Brenda Rodrigues, Mary Hackett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Michael Doyle, Mary Coburn, Jim Monaghan, Maeve and John Reardon, Anne Jenkins, Kate and Mary Dunn, Brendan Holloway, Helen McLean and Ray Sanchez CP. We remember also those we know who seek or need our prayers.

Some Pentecost Humour



Q How do we know the Apostles drove a Honda?

A “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one accord.”

The **Mass link** for this week (Pentecost Sunday) will be sent tomorrow afternoon.

Wishing you many blessings for this coming week!

For and on behalf of the community, Tim

A couple of videos to SEAL the deal!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duzzqvNdiy8>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/AELZPgarsps?feature=share>