

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 130



12th August, 2022

Greetings,

Chapel

Gradually we are completing the works in the chapel. Last week the tabernacle lamp and Paschal candle stand were installed by Frank from the 'A Team'. New softer lighting was installed over the altar. This week two new powerful speakers were installed which are sharp in sound and they give 165 degree coverage of the chapel, so we expect everyone wherever they are seated will be able to hear the music better as well as those speaking. Mind you, readers and celebrants need to use the microphones properly. We believe we have also eradicated the buzz that has emanated from the computer. Our next project is to replace the large white screen with a matching TV screen.



Final profession: 13th Aug

This coming Saturday in Saigon, three Vietnamese Passionists (Joseph Đoàn, Tuấn Paul and James Công) will make a life-long commitment (final profession) and John Baptist Phi will renew his commitment.

One week later, Joseph Quyên and Peter Thống who spent time at Holy Cross as postulants, will be ordained deacons.

This Sunday Joseph Tuấn had hoped to speak at 10.00am Mass, but he may need to do that virtually. Tuấn was a novice classmate of Erick's and he is conducting an appeal for the needs of Passionist life in Vietnam. More about that on Sunday.

In the coming weeks we will provide information about JD (Joseph Dominic) Tan who we hope will be here before the end of the month. He will undertake a semester of English language studies before undertaking post graduate studies at YU. JD was ordained on November 26th 2021.

Three men (Thang, Doung and Toan) will arrive as soon as they are granted a visa, to undertake eleven months of English language studies

This is the way this are going

A man calls Pizza Hut to order a pizza...

CALLER: Is this Pizza Hut?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialled a wrong number, sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Pizza Hut last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: Super! That's what I'll have.

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I don't want a vegetarian pizza!

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How do you know that?

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your vegetarian pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Lloyds Pharmacy, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another Pharmacy.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your latest tax returns unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law!

CALLER: WHAT THE !!!

GOOGLE: I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without the internet, TV, where there is no phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

Province history 5: Growth and (1937-1960) Part 2:



Expansion

The history of this period above includes the very happy event not only of the end to WW2 in 1945, but the ordination of nine men who had begun their formation at St Ives. They included Bernard Kenny, Greg Kirby and Sebastian Norcock as well as Peter Dodd who died three years later of cancer. These ordinations increased the number of priests in the Province by forty-five percent!

1945

That same year a further approach was made to Archbishop Mannix by the Provincial, Fr Alphonsus, to establish a community in Melbourne. Mannix passed on the request to his consultants. This request proved semi-successful with Mannix directing the Passionists to the outskirts of Melbourne. He believed the area was about to be detached from Melbourne to become part of the new diocese of Geelong, but that separation never happened.



With proceeds from the sale of a bequest property in Marrickville, an eleven-room house and thirty-three acres of land were purchased in Leopold ninety kilometres from Melbourne, for two thousand six hundred pounds (Value today of approx.

\$180,000), A community was established there in 1946.

In 1949 the Provincial Chapter was held at St Ives for the first time, rather than at Marrickville. The following year Benedict Smith returned from Rome with a Licentiate in Theology, the first such post-graduate degree earned by a member of the Province. Other connections with Rome included Bede O'Brien's four year teaching period there from 1912, and Hilary Mara's four year term as General Consultor from 1916.

In search for a more suitable residence which could offer retreats for laity, thirty-five acres of land was purchased at Highton, Geelong in 1953 for 13,250 pounds (@ \$5000,000 in today's currency). That same year the one hundredth student entered St Ives.

With the election of Xavier Bates as Provincial in 1954 and an influx of ordinations and students, the Province embarked on great expansion over the next three years. Perhaps most significant was the establishment of a Mission in New Guinea, Four men, Anselm Turner, Greg Kirby, Ignatius Willy and Hilary O'Donnell were asked to go there in 1955. This was an incredibly primitive and



demanding venture. The foundation began a significant contribution of the Province in manpower and other resources to an under-privileged part of the world. More will be covered about this mission in a subsequent segment of the Province history.

In 1955, communities were opened in Oxley (Brisbane), and St Kilda (Melbourne). Neither of these was parish based. The house in 4 Wando Grove St Kilda was approved by Archbishop Mannix as a residence for men engaged in mission and retreat work. No approval was given for a public chapel. The house was closed in 1964 when Holy Cross, Templestowe was being built.

THE FORT

The property in Oxley was originally brought from the Government by Mr. Henry Lucock, who was Queensland's first Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, but he never developed it. Pastoralist Henry Coxen, a veteran of the Boer War and of the British India Army was travelling up the Brisbane river to Ipswich at the Seventeen Mile Rocks reach of the Brisbane River, when his attention was caught by the land formation. The high ground above the river reminded him of a similar headland in Bombay on which a fort had been built and in which he had previously served.

Henry Coxon purchased 70 acres from Mr. Lucock in 1865 and later built a house on it called 'the Slopes' which his daughter lived in, another called 'St Eneda' and in 1882 he built a house which he named "The Fort". Coxen eventually sold up and returned to England. In 1906 the Brisbane 'Telegraph' In 1906, described the home as having "one of the most beautiful views around Brisbane". The previous year Frank Knight Corkran brought the property from Henry Coxen and the Corkran family lived in the house until March 31st 1955. The property was sold to the Passionists for 6,000 pounds (@ \$220,000 in today's currency).

Fr Xavier was in Brisbane and on meeting with Archbishop James Duhig he discussed a foundation in Brisbane.

The Archbishop dropped Xavier off at the Ursuline community in Oxley having suggested their property might be suitable for the Passionists, and he understood the Ursulines were leaving the area soon. In 1924 they had taken over Duporth school for girls which has originally been established by Janet O'Connor in 1885. The sisters advised Xavier that they were not moving, although they did two years later in 1957, and Canossa hospital now stands on that land at the corner of Seventeen Miles Rocks Road and Fort Road, Oxley.



Fortunately the sisters knew that an old farming property at the end of Fort Road (one kilometre away) was for sale and this was Mr Coxen's original property. The house was

stripped of everything and the property had been shamefully neglected. The house needed repairs and painting and the fences and sheds were falling down. It needed major modification at simple expense to be suitable for a religious community.

Four men from the Province were waiting to go to Papua New Guinea, so they joined the local community of four and became involved in cleaning up the house and grounds. One of the front rooms was made into a temporary chapel. The grounds were infested with what appeared to be numberless decaying sheds, fowl houses and stock yards. All of these, except a large and smaller shed were pulled down.



The house was reliant for water on a few small and very old tanks, so it was decided to arrange for town supply to be bought to the property. The Council approved this application. A 750 metre trench was built in four days. The water reached the property for the first time on June 18th 1955. The missionary pioneers were practising skills they would need in PNG. An architect drew up plans and the missionaries acted as labourers and painters in remodelling the house. The existing building was enlarged by adding a new wing. The price of the new wing, plus renovations and painting, was 3,850 pounds, and it was finished by early September. The architect generously waived his fees. Work then began remodelling the grounds.



Earth from excavations was used to provide a lookout over the river.

The view across to Mt Cootha and the city became a great attraction. A cow was purchased for 24 pounds, because the price of milk was so high. A bulldozer was hired to open a new road to enter the property about 200 metres from the house. The open section under the house was closed in. A tank and tank stand were erected to collect water. A rough and rustic grid was put at the front

entrance in April. Then work began on the fowl pens, cowbails and workshop.

An ancient shed, originally used for stables that stood or leaned drunkenly, near the Fort Road entrance had been eaten by white ants. It was dismantled and re-erected on the east side of the house. It took a month to repair the rotted timber. It was later used for school retreat days and



since 1991 'The Shed' has been used for Sunday Mass as well as for retreat or reflection days. The grounds assist in making the Shed an excellent facility.

Nine people attended the first public Mass on the third Sunday of February 1956 at 8.00am. Mass has continued to be celebrated each Sunday since that time.

On November 1st 1957, the Passionists began a chaplaincy at Canossa hospital. In 1961 some land adjoining the property and owned by the Corkran family was purchased which extended the total land area to 11.5 hectares. It is uncertain at what stage two guns were erected out the front, but these were traded in 1972 and a large crucifix with terra cotta figure was erected in its place and is still there. It



seems Fr John Cummins purchased the two guns and this led to many false stories about the naming of the property as 'The Fort'.

The patronage of the house was Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven) which was later shortened to St Mary's, but it has remained popularly, 'The Fort' to this day.

Answers to the quiz: (two weeks ago)

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: **Boxing.**

2. North American landmark constantly moving backward: **Niagara Falls .. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.**

3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: **Asparagus and rhubarb.**

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: **Strawberry.**

5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? **It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.**

6. Three English words beginning with dw: Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...

7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Full stop, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: Lettuce.

9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S': Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

Humour

1. At a special dinner, the main speaker became distressed when he realised he left his false teeth behind. He shared this news with his table companion who quickly said 'Don't worry, I can help you', and he produced from his pocket several sets of dentures.

The speaker gratefully selected a pair that suited him. After the speech he thanked his friend and said, "Thank heavens I was sitting next to a dentist".

"No", his friend replied, "I am not a dentist; I am an undertaker"!

2. A husband and wife were travelling to Hawaii for a holiday. On the way they had an argument about how to pronounce 'Hawaii'. He said it should be 'Hawaii'; she said it should be 'Havaii'.

On their arrival they asked a local man, Dave, to settle their dispute. He told them. "It should be pronounced 'Havaii'. The could thanked them and Dave said, "No trouble at all you are very welcome!

3. Joe was having trouble with his computer so he called Chris, the 14 year old boy from next door (whose bedroom looks like Mission Control) and asked him to come over and have a look at his computer. Chris had a quick look at the computer, clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, Joe called after him and asked, "so what was wrong?"

Chris replied, "it was an ID ten T error". Joe is regarded by some as a genius and he didn't want to appear stupid on this issue, but nonetheless he inquired, "an ID Ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again". Chris grinned, "haven't you ever of an ID ten T error before?" "No," Joe replied. Chris said to write it down, and I think you'll figure it out. So Joe wrote down: I D 1 0 T

Joe used to like that young boy!

Busker and artist: 'All I Ask of You'

This video is about as moving as any. Stephen Barry was busking when he was joined by someone who knew the song...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hxm5pJsgKVo>

Calling the wrong number

A call comes in the middle of the night. Who was it?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4ie2OG-tpI

87

Congratulations to Pat Bond who turns 87 on Tuesday August 16th.

On Thursday August 18th, our **Passionist Companions** will meet at 2pm.

Prayers

For the anniversaries of Gwen Bartlett (14th Aug), John Whyte (15th Aug), Mary Corboy and Babs Cogle (16th August).

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**
Philippians 1:3-4

We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Maeve Reardon who asked two weeks ago to be removed from our list, but has been readmitted to hospital. We also remember John Gill, who has received a very poor prognosis this week, Maree Bartoli who is struggling on with MND, Paul Darbyshire who has begun cancer treatment, Ted and Elaine Hallam (Ted is having surgery today (Friday), Jim Monaghan (Chris' Dad has improved slightly), John Reardon (is home from rehab but with mobility issues,) Barry Wong, Helen McLean, Gerry Bond, Peter Owen, Graham Hille, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Angelo Vigilante, Peter DeMarzi, Pam Gartland, Lesley Yang, Anne Jenkins, Mary Corkoren, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia Keeghan, Michael Doyle, Pam Grehan, Mary Coburn, Mary Hackett, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP and those who seek or need our prayers.

The **Mass link** will be sent by Chris on Saturday afternoon.

Have a good weekend

Brian

