

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 140



21st October, 2022

Greetings,

Mass on Friday night

We will celebrate the feast of St Paul of the Cross at 7.30pm with Mass and Supper. Everyone is welcome.

Erick, his Mum and family



Last Sunday we were treated to a very uplifting experience at Mass with Erick, his Mum and his family completing a thanksgiving song, with a spontaneous dance that finished with mother and son embracing.

Below are some of the family with Erick and Pastor who managed a bit of song and dance on Sunday afternoon and evening after Rose cooked an amazing Sunday lunch for the community.



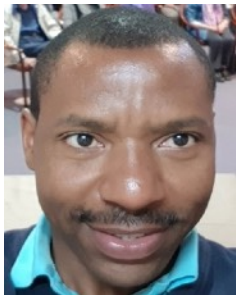
Tri



Tri had surgery to remove his appendix last Thursday. It was a bit of an ordeal for him getting to hospital, and for Pastor and Erick who accompanied him. They first went to Box Hill, but after some hours they were advised that he would need to go to Ferntree Gully by ambulance (which Pastor and Erick followed). They got home at 3.00am. Tri is home recovering well and back attending classes online.

A few days before this rushed surgery, Tri and Phi both had rain enter their rooms caused by over filled gutters and heavy rain, so life has not been dull for them!

Pastor



Among other things, Pastor has been back in the garden. He has transformed the small garden outside the chapel and made the 'out the front' lawn look particularly nice. Cutting around the 38 bollards is a very time-consuming task. With help from Teresa, Pastor has re-established a veggie garden opposite our garages where he grew some beautiful tomatoes and cucumbers late last year.

On a sadder note for us, Pastor has been given his next appointment. He will join the community of St Paul's in Glen Osmond, from next Wednesday evening. There, he will assist in the parish and use his spiritual direction qualifications to assist in the Retreat Centre. Pastor will lead Eucharist this Sunday, so that is an opportunity to say farewell. He will be truly missed by the community.

Chris Monaghan



The community celebrated Chris' birthday a day late (on Monday night). In this pose someone asked was Chris thinking he was praying at Mass, but he suggested this is a typical pose of his Dad's, which he has inherited.

You can see we did not go overboard with the size of the cake!

Joe Senzo



Joe was born on the feast of Paul of the Cross (October 19th) and he thought he'd try on JD's mantle for size to what he'd look like. I reckon we could cast him in bronze and he would pass as an authentic saint from a prior era. I can hear Angela saying, "certainly not in this era!" Happy birthday, Joe.

Paul Darbyshire



We have been praying for Paul who has completed a long period of chemo treatment and now faces a very big and complex operation (eight and a half hours) next Friday 28th.

Please keep Paul in your prayers.

Paul and his wife Linda shared the National Director role of the Passionist Family Group Movement for five years until July 2021 and he has been a long time active supporter of the NZ Passionist Youth Team

Kevin Hennessy

Kevin is recuperating at our Endeavour Hills community. He has had a loop recorder implanted which acts like an electrocardiogram continuously picking up electrical signal from the heart. This can help identify abnormal heart rhythms that might problems such as fainting or palpitations. Kevin also has COVID, just to add to the challenges.

Mary Corkoren



After a month of terrible health complications including great discomfort, Mary succumbed at 5.30am on Tuesday. Mary has been one of our rostered readers for many years and when her health did not permit here to attend on Sundays because of the risk of infection, she continued to read for the recorded Mass. The funeral details are unknown at this time.

Teresa Lim

Teresa left for Hong Kong on Wednesday for a month. She is looking forward to hugging her grandchildren.

Sr Margaret Bentley FMA

Margaret celebrates her birthday on Friday October 28th. Margaret is Academic Dean of English Language Studies for Pastoral Ministry (ELSPM) the Passionist sponsored programme for English language learning where our own men study.

Provincial Council meeting

This coming week will see our Provincial Council (Tom, Denis, Brendan, Chris and myself) meet at Holy Cross from Monday 'til Wednesday. Brendan will be delayed so that he can celebrate the funeral of one of his aunt's in Adelaide. This will be the second last meeting of the Council for the year.

November 6th....Remembrance

During 10.00am Mass on Sunday November 6th, we will remember friends and family of Holy Cross who have died. If you have a photo of a deceased relative, please email it to Tim Horlock at: horlocktim1@gmail.com

PROVINCE HISTORY: 9. REVIEWED STRATEGIC PLANNING (Part 1)



As outlined in Chapter Eight, the Province embarked on a ten-year Strategic Plan in 1997. Expert assistance was acquired and various surveys were undertaken. Some aspects of the Plan began immediately, while other elements were planned to take up to five years to begin and not reach their full implementation for up to ten years'. An attempt was made to describe the nature and purpose of each community and the number of professed men who might be living there when the plan was realized by 2006. These numbers for each community or ministry were proposed in light of the projected numerical strength of the Province.

The vision of the plan called us to see ourselves first as the one Province Community and not just separate local communities. The appointment of men to a local community was to be in light of each person's willingness to actively support the life and mission of that community, and support the wider mission of the Province. Underpinning the plan was that community life is the foundation of our mission and that our future would be tied to collaborative ministry with laity and other religious.



A local Passionist community was to be both a place of Passionist ministry in the areas of spirituality, prayer and faith formation as well as a base from which professed men go out to conduct these works in other places. This was to be seen as the primary task of the whole community, so that all could share in the one mission of the Community.

The plan determined that our principal houses would be St Brigid's Marrickville and St Paul's Glen Osmond and that both would need renovation to achieve revised use. These projects took much longer to complete than envisaged. The renovation of Glen Osmond was completed in 2002 and the Marrickville project in 2005. The latter, including converting Shrublands Bowling Club into a Province Centre, building twelve units on site and two underground car parks. The rooms in the monastery were renovated to provide ensuites for the bedrooms, and a lift was installed.



It was decided that we would create a new parish-based community in Melbourne (Endeavour Hills) and a mission community in Bourke. Both of these commitments were taken on for five years with a plan to evaluate them at that time.



The plan required revision in 2000 when it was decided to close our St Ives community in Sydney and relocate the

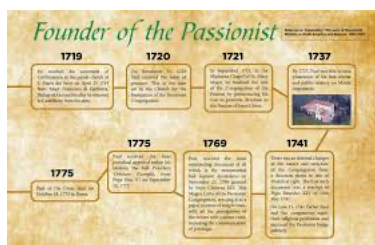
members to a large suburban house in Belrose, while retaining the pastoral care of Terrey Hills parish. Proceeds from the sale of St Ives and land from Glen Osmond were directed to fund the substantial renovation of Glen Osmond and Marrickville. Plans were also put in place to sell a substantial part of the Oxley property, which eventually was done in 2005.

There was a more substantial revision of the plan in 2003. Having failed to attract candidates to our way of life and facing ageing and diminishment, we recognised that our plan to establish small communities had created great strain for several men in the Province as had been the case in the mid 1950's. This situation is again very real at the time of the Centenary jubilee.

It was decided to close our communities in Bourke and in Belrose and relinquish both parishes (Bourke and Terrey Hills) cared for by these communities. It was also decided that we would withdraw from Port Augusta in early 2007. The original plan had seen the Marrickville community become two separate communities. It was decided to rejoin them.

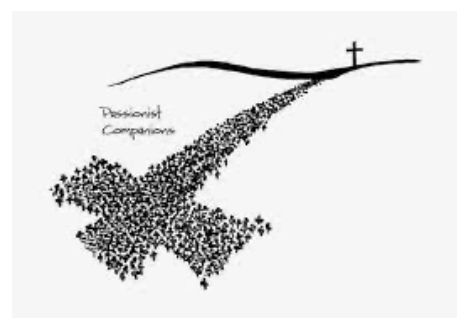


The Province had dedicated itself to personal and professional development and established a Formation Commission of professed and non-professed members in 2000.



During these years great advances were made in our appreciation of the Passionist Family. Through Passionist Institutes and Pilgrimages involving non professed and professed, there was an ever-increasing awareness that the charism does not belong to professed members alone.

The Province decided to dedicate a significant amount of personnel and finance to promote the charism, which was enhanced by the establishment of Passionist Companions in 2002, who could share and deepen their awareness of Passionist spirituality.



In 2006 we celebrated 50 years of presence in St Joseph's Hobart and St Mary's, Oxley.



A significant development at this time was the establishment of Passionist youth and young adult teams in Brisbane and Melbourne, enabling a team of

young men and women to develop their faith and offer retreats with a Passionist focus. This work had been a hallmark of the Province twenty-five years earlier, and with the decline in young professed, the development of the team under the leadership of Ray Sanchez, enabled this ministry to be resurrected.

There were fewer professed but the charism was alive in over a hundred non-professed. Who knew where this will could lead?

"Where will this lead?"

At the time we faced the future with uncertainty because the church itself was living in challenging times. Our Province began with small numbers and we had seen great change since the first Passionists came to Australia. We remained hopeful. The spirit of God blows where the Spirit wills. Denis Travers was Holy Spirit Provincial in 2006



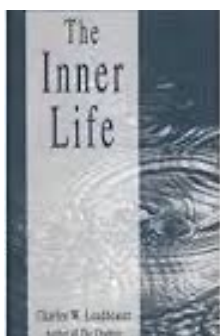
when he was elected First General Consultor of the Congregation. Our Provincial Chapter in 2007 was brought forward a few months, enabling Denis to complete his term. The 2006 General Chapter noted that the Passionist Charism is lived in relationships and detailed these relationships as being with Jesus, with our brothers in community, especially the

young, the elderly, the sick; with those to whom we minister, especially with the most neglected and those who suffer; and those who represent the absence of unity within our church.

The 2006 General Chapter had highlighted that our charism helps us to celebrate life in the midst of death. Its focus is love and relationships before action (being more than doing). Lived truly, this calls for a transformation of us personally and as a Province and Congregation. From this deep life force (the Passionist charism), we are compelled to proclaim the fellowship of God in a variety of ministries.



Some concern had been voiced that we had focused in the past few years on external restructuring (especially our buildings) and that we must now look to restructure our own personal lives and our communities. Further, we recognised that we should do this through the lens of our charism that speaks to us powerfully in the reality of our Province life. In the midst of ageing and dying we wanted to celebrate life.



In seeking to respond to this call, it was proposed that during the years 2007-2011 a strategic priority of the Province would be the exploration and celebration of the charism lived in relationships. In our Province Pre-chapter considerations in 2007, there was a recognition that we must consider better care of one another, seek

to be more tolerant and appreciative of our differences and become more aware of each other's efforts; improve our community life, recognise our vulnerability as an ageing group, focus our energies, and pay attention to our inner life. It was agreed that improving relationships must be our first priority and that we must pay more attention to our spirituality.

In order to achieve our goals, it was recommended that every structure and Committee within the Province would seek to focus on building and sustaining relationships, paying special attention to those on the fringe both within and outside our own communities and in our current and potential ministries. These efforts had the aim of encouraging personal and communal renewal in Passionist spirituality and remembering the personal vulnerability that results from ageing, sickness and excessive commitments.

9 Priorities

In February 2007 we withdrew from Port Augusta, South Australia. Later that year at the Provincial Chapter, we chose nine priority areas to guide and promote the ongoing vitality of the Passionist Charism, Life and

Mission over the next four years and into the future.

1. Reinvigoration and sharing of the Passionist Charism
2. Renewal and development of community life
3. Growth of Passionist Mission in Papua New Guinea
4. Collaboration with the Wider Passionist Family
5. Engagement with young people
6. Care of senior and infirm Passionists
7. Promotion of Passionist vocations
8. Commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation
9. International Collaboration



These Province Priorities were called to guide the planning and work done by the new Provincial and Council, Province Commissions, Committees, Teams and ministries and the life and ministries of vowed Passionists and members of the

wider Passionist Family from 2007 to 2011. (To be continued)

Seraphim McIvor

Irishman, Seraphim McIvor, was the first Passionist to be ordained in Australia, in 1892. He came out as a student, much like Tri and Phi are doing now. Sadly, he was drowned when a ship sank off Auckland harbour two years later, in 1894. Seraphim had been sent to engage in a series of parish missions with Fr Hilary Mara who had already arrived in Auckland. There is a plaque at Onepoto

on Great Barrier Island to commemorate Seraphim, the only Passionist to be buried in New Zealand, although the exact location of his grave is unknown. Seraphim's anniversary is October 28th.

Magic

There is some magic that really astounds you. This is right up there with the best. https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE_EXG_Xvig

Humour

The judge asked, "You, George H Remmah are accused that on August 12th last. you beat your wife to death with a hammer. How do you plead?"

"Guilty", said George.

A man at the back of the court shouted, "You dirty liar".

The judge asked the man at the back to be seated and to remain quiet, and then he continued.. "Further, Mr Remmah, you are accused that on the night of September 12th, you beat your son to death with a hammer. How do you plead?"

"Guilty", said George.

Again the same man at the back called out, "You dirty liar".

The judge called the man forward and asked him, "What is your relationship with this man?"

The man replied, "He is my next door neighbour".

"So", said the judge, having disturbed the court twice, tell me why you have accused Mr Remmah of being untruthful?"

"Because", the man replied, "I asked him on two separate occasions if he had a hammer and he said , "I don't have one".

The following statements about the Bible were written by children. Any incorrect spelling has been left uncorrected.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
6. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
7. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
8. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
9. The greatest mircale in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
10. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
11. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
12. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
13. When the three wise men from the east side arrived they found Jesus and the manager.
14. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
15. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you.
16. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
17. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
18. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
19. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is marraige.
20. Christians have only one spouse called monotony.



Prayers

We remember those deceased, especially former PFGM parish Coordinator, [Graham Hille](#) who passed away last week. We also remember [Mary Corkeron](#), a Passionist Companion and regular Mass reader, who died on Tuesday morning, after a long and uncomfortable illness,. We also remember those whose anniversaries in the coming week, especially [Helen Sprague](#) (October 28th) .



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Paul Darbyshire, Mary Coburn Maree Bartoli, Jim Molan, Maeve and John Reardon, Jim Monaghan, Mary Dunn, Barry Wong, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Denise Glasgow, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Gerry Bond, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Peter DeMarzi, Pam Gartland, Lesley Yang, Anne Jenkins, Mary Hackett, Greg Agosa, Peter McNamara, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Michael Doyle, Margaret Wright, Kate Dunn, Marg Casey, 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