

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 142



4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Greetings,

### Remembrance Mass

During Mass this Sunday Nov 6<sup>th</sup> we will remember and pray for deceased family members and friends. A Power Point presentation after communion will include photos. For that Mass you are welcome to write names of people to pray for on a piece of paper and place them on the altar before Mass.

Our prayer highlights the communion of humankind, living and deceased as we seek full union with God, just as our ancestors did, and we remain hopeful that others will in time, continue such a hope and pray for us. Ancient peoples have always believed in the connectedness and sacredness of all life forms, and that our family includes ancestors and descendants. This family includes all those we have known and loved – those who loved us into life and those who passed on their faith to us. They include the Holy Cross family.

In praying for our ancestors and celebrating their life, we express our hope that they live in peace enfolded in God, and that one day we will join them in the new and wonderful life that Jesus promised.

### Anointing Mass

During Mass on [Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>](#) there will be an opportunity (after the homily), for communal Anointing of the Sick.

### Holy Spirit Province Centenary Zoom Institute

#### Sat Nov 19<sup>th</sup>: “100 Years: The Journey continues”

10.45am-2.15pm <a href="#">AEST</a>	9.45am-12.15pm <a href="#">PNG and Brisbane</a>
12.45am-4.15pm <a href="#">New Zealand</a>	6.45am-10.45am <a href="#">Vietnam</a>

#### Sun Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: “100 Years: The Journey continues”

1.30pm-5.30pm <a href="#">AEST</a>	12.30pm-4.30pm <a href="#">PNG and Brisbane</a>
3.30pm-6.15pm <a href="#">New Zealand</a>	9.30am-1.30pm <a href="#">Vietnam</a>

[An evening BBQ will follow the final session on Sunday, beginning at 6pm](#)

### Holiday

Mayrose will have a well-earned holiday, beginning at the end of this coming week. She will return on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Trauma and human living today

This is an article Paul Traynor shared last week with the New Zealand PFGM



Recently, I was recommended a book written by Dr. Bruce Perry MD – A Psychiatrist working with ‘Trauma’. It has been an enlightening journey in understanding the causes, impact, and ways to treat both children and adults suffering from the effects of Trauma.

What some people have lived through and with, is truly humbling and the work of this man and his clinical team is just nothing short of amazing.

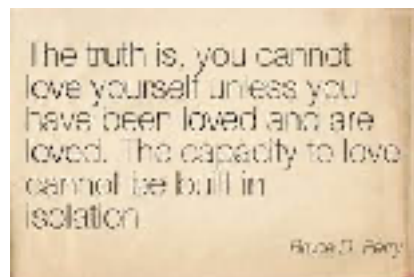
The following paragraphs spoke to me in relation to Passionist Family Groups, our “aims and goals”. It comes back to extending ourselves to others to be a “Family for All”. Perry states, *“The wonderful thing about our species is that we can learn; our memories and our technologies allow us to benefit from the experience of those who came before us. But at the same time those technologies, even the ones that are presumably meant to bring us together, are increasingly keeping us apart. The modern world has disrupted and, in many cases abandoned the fundamental biological unit of human social life: the extended family”.*



He continues, *“For countless generations humans lived in small groups, made up of 40 up to 150 people, most of whom were closely related to each other and lived communally. As late as the year 1500, the average family group in Europe consisted of roughly 20 people whose lives were intimately ‘connected’ on a daily basis. But, by 1850 that number was down to*

*10, living in close proximity and in 1960 the number was just five. In the year 2000 the average size of a household was less than four, and a shocking 26% of Americans live alone. (Note: Australia has the same percentage)*

*As technology has advanced, we have gotten farther and farther away from the environment for which evolution shaped us. The world we live in is now biologically disrespectful, it does not take into account many of our most basic human needs and often pulls us away from healthy activities and toward those that are harmful.....we are social mammals and could have never survived without deeply interconnected and independent contact. The truth is you cannot love yourself unless you have been loved and are loved. The capacity to love cannot be built in isolation.”*



I have spent a lot of time listening and talking to priests, laity, people with ministry responsibilities and these words above have set me thinking as well as reflecting on



where we are...where I am. Our Passionist Family Groups are a call, a ministry, a service, and a response to this journey where we are confronted by both the consumer and individualist bug, where the 'I' is seen, as supreme. However, the history of humanity and in fact the history of the Universe tell a different story.

Everything is connected, we are stardust, and we breathe the same air as our ancestors. Think and ponder on that – we are connected! Nature continually astounds through its complexity just like our brains. We are not the last stop in the Universe story, we are not the supreme beings, as we trade and sell off 'things' and our relationships suffer when we are lured by this attitude. Jesus reminds us that God is with us and all around us there is enough spirit food to assist us as we encounter trials, setbacks, and disappointments.



Nature shows us that the world is full of mystery and that suffering is part of growth in both the natural world and in the human world. As we move forward this week check your connections and contact those you have not spoken to in a while. Forgive mistakes, laugh, and hold on, in times of trauma and loss with empathy, patience, and compassion. For our judgement when it comes will never be around what we gained! Rather, what we (I) shared.

Our Passionist Family Groups may see many people declining with age but not in being family! Love, care and friendship endure. We can sit back and be secure in our comfort or we can enrich each other so the next generation can have an opportunity to share in the spoils of being like an extended family; one that seeks to be "A Family for All".



Sow seeds today and tomorrow will bear the fruit. God go with you

Prayer and blessings,

Paul

## Bringing a Passionist Voice to the United Nations

Annemarie O'Connor, Director of Passionists International says "the UN is the one place where countries come together to make commitments and hold each other accountable to promoting peace, sustainable development, and the human rights and dignity of all people. It is a large, imperfect institution that often moves slowly as it struggles for consensus, yet it is also capable of establishing important rights and responsibilities as well as legally binding treaties".



"As the UN calls for all individuals to have the right to a dignified life and livelihood, a sustainable future, and life free from violence and discrimination, Passionists International joins with other non-governmental and faith-based organizations in keeping Member States alert to the issues that are harming people, and accountable to their commitments and beyond. We look for your input from your part of the world".

"This year the world is at a critical juncture with multiple intersecting events of great concern. For now, I would like to draw attention to Haiti, which has been in the midst of multiple crises that are reaching unfathomable proportions. Advocating for Haiti has been a priority area for Passionists International. We urged the Security Council to hold a special meeting to address the high level of violence and insecurity that was occurring. We held our own hearing to bring Haitian voices to share



As conditions continued to worsen we continued to raise concerns about gang violence and the control of gangs over Haiti: blockage of fuel, food, water and medical supplies, growing hunger and malnutrition, fear and trauma experienced especially by women (kidnappings and sexual violence) and children witnessing and at-risk of daily violence, the recruitment of young boys, etc. The recent arrival of cholera has added another threatening dimension".

The Security Council recently passed a first resolution to sanction gang leaders and those in collusion with them - freezing their assets and mobility, and the trafficking of arms. A second resolution is forthcoming and more complex, aimed at providing non-UN international assistance to the Haitian National Police to address the violence, release the fuel depots and assist Haitian efforts towards building peace and security. There are efforts to "get it right" this time, ensuring that Haitians lead in determining their needs, versus the international community repeating a pattern of "meddling" that has been detrimental to Haiti's governance and setting of its own path.



"Passionist (and doctor) Fr Rick Frechette and his partners and fellow religious in Haiti who are living out



what it means to be in solidarity with the people of Haiti, including reaching out to change hearts and minds of those embroiled in the web of violence. Their lives, like all Haitians, are at risk each day. Yet they are bringing food, water, medical supplies to those most forgotten, treating cholera, helping to release victims, ministering to grieving and traumatized families in the midst of heinous violence, experiencing violence themselves on the roads and in their neighbourhoods.

In recent letters to co-workers, friends and supporters, Fr. Rick wrote: *“The atrocities are unbelievable, the tragedies are heartbreaking, the destruction is massive. Literally everything is falling apart... We all face daily dangers, even of death. Never has it been more important to focus on the individual and vulnerable person in front of us, in need and anguish. Never has it been more important to believe that by saving even one person, we can save the world. Never has it been more important to do even the smallest thing in the most correct way, with great care and dignity. This focus and dedication will save us mentally and emotionally, and bring spiritual and material blessing from God...”*

*“...when raids on human dignity are unspeakable, you and I have only one course of action: We must be fully human in everything we think, feel, do and say. We must witness to the highest vision of humanity and show the highest road... We know how to get where many others cannot reach, for the benefit of those trapped ...We are, these days, doing a ton of work getting in between the cracks and reaching the isolated...”*



About those cracks that have become their path, he shared this prayer of 13<sup>th</sup> century Islamic theologian and poet, Rumi:

I said: What about my eyes? He said: Keep them on the road.

I said: What about my passion? He said: Keep it burning.

I said: What about my heart? He said: Tell me what you hold inside it.

I said: Pain and sorrow.

He said: “Stay with it. The wound is the place where the Light enters you.”

Fr Rick’s work: <http://www.stlukehaiti.org/>

Passionists International: <https://passionistsinternational.org/>

## PROVINCE HISTORY: 10. PASPAC PARTNERSHIP



What we know today as PASPAC has had three descriptions. It began with a gathering of the leaders of the Asia Pacific Provinces and

Vice-Provinces in 1975 and it was called “The Far East Superiors Meeting”.

In time, the name changed to Passionist Asia Pacific Conference (PASPAC), and it came to be recognised as a permanent organizational structure without any legal status in the Congregation. There were other regional conferences in Italy, Spain, Northern Europe, Latin America and Africa, so PASPAC like them, was a regional conference. The common understanding was that every Passionist in the Asia-Pacific region belonged to PASPAC. This is still the case.

The word ‘Conference’ was replaced by the word ‘Configuration’ -PASPAC (Passionist Asia Pacific Configuration) - following the official establishment of the six Configurations of the Congregation, each with juridical (legal) standing, by the 2012 General Chapter.

The original aim of PASPAC was to facilitate communication and cooperation in the various countries and cultures, and to coordinate common interests in ministry, formation and spirituality. PASPAC agreed to make English our operating language. Throughout the years, some Vice-Provinces (e.g. Indonesia, Korea and India) have become full Provinces. China has been joined to Korea as a Province and Vietnam has been joined to Holy Spirit Province.



Today there are eleven countries within PASPAC: Indonesia, Korea, China, Philippines, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Myanmar. The Congregation has called for each Configuration to seek solidarity in four areas: personnel, formation, finance and JPIC. Representatives of these four areas from each entity attend meetings of their Commission where issues are discussed and voted upon. These Commission meetings form part of a PASPAC

Assembly. At the end of the Assembly a decision is made about the venue for the next Assembly. As a result of COVID, there has been no meeting since 2019.

Since 1975, PASPAC Assemblies have been held in: 1975 Philippines, 1977 Korea, 1979 Papua New Guinea, 1982 Japan, 1985 Philippines, 1989 Japan, 1991 Australia, 1993 Korea, 1995 India, 1997 Philippines, 1999 Japan, 2001 Indonesia, 2003 Papua New Guinea, 2005 Australia, 2007 Korea, 2009 India, 2011 Philippines, 2013 Japan, 2016 Indonesia, 2017 Australia, 2019 Korea.



This means that the Vice Province of the Japanese Martyrs Japan has hosted four times in Japan (1982, 1989, 1999, 2013), The Province of the Passion of Christ in the Philippines has hosted four times, (1975, 1985, 1997, 2011) and The Province of the Korean Martyrs in Korea and China has hosted four times (1977, 1993, 2007, 2019). The Vice Province of St. Thomas the

Apostle in India has hosted twice (1995, 2009) and the Province of Our Lady of Peace in Indonesia twice (2001, 2016). Holy Spirit Province has hosted five Assemblies. Australia has hosted three times (1991, 2005, 2017) and Papua New Guinea has hosted twice (1979, 2003).

The PASPAC Assemblies are attended by the the General Consultor for PASPAC; the PASPAC Leaders (Provincials and Vice Provincials) who also serve as the Personnel Commission; the members of the PASPAC Formation Commission; the members of the PASPAC Finance Commission; the members of the PASPAC JPIC Commission: the PASPAC Executive Officer (Secretary) as well as a moderator and particular specially invited Guests. PASPAC has an Executive Council which consists of the General or his delegate, the Major Superiors of the Provinces or Vice-Provinces in PASPAC and the President of the Configuration.

The decision makers are the Major Superiors of the Congregational entities (listed above) together with the President of the Configuration. They are called the Executive Council. Vietnam and China have consultative members of the Executive Council. The Executive of PASPAC is the President, Vice-President and Secretary. Bro Larry Finn operated as Executive Secretary and then President of PASPAC for the period 2001-2017. His significant contribution to PASPAC has continued by his service as novice master for the international novitiate, currently being conducted in Saigon. Tom McDonough has been PASPAC President since 2017.



The hoped-for exchange of personnel has been minimal across the entities, other than for a period of time when Holy Spirit Province was blessed with several Passionists from India, and in particular by the staffing of the International Novitiate in Adelaide and now in Saigon. Another significant contribution was made for the foundation in Vietnam and the beginnings of Passionist presence in Myanmar which is currently suspended. Likewise, other than for the international novitiate, the envisaged financial support has been minimal, although Holy Spirit Province has offered various PASPAC members formation opportunities at reduced or no cost.



Among the more successful contributions has been the assistance provided in learning English, particularly through the English Language Studies for Pastoral Ministry (ELSPM). This contribution is to be expected given that our financial resources are stronger than most if not all entities, but our shortage of personnel has not been effectively filled from PASPAC and COVID certainly prevented any change in that situation.

The PASPAC Formation Commission was very effective in the past decade, but again

it has been stalled by COVID. The Commission was able to establish some common policies on a number of issues including Professional Standards and to discuss wide-ranging challenges related to formation.

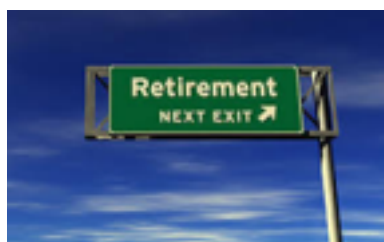


The future of the Congregation seems

to be strongest in the Asia-Pacific area. Having responded to the 2006 General Chapter to work towards strengthening relationships and building Congregational solidarity in PASPAC in the areas of personnel, formation and finance, the 2011 Chapter committed the Province to continuing reflection on

our experience of welcoming religious from other Provinces to live among us, and the ways they enhance our community life.

Noting that both physical surroundings and ministerial commitments can work against good community life, we pledged to overcome obstacles to community life whenever possible. The Chapter committed itself to our mission in PNG and for dialogue with our Indonesia Province to assist with personnel for our mission in Vanimo. Hence by 2015 there were three Indonesian Passionists ministering in Vanimo. One of these, Fr Valensius Son CP is still there in 2022.



The 2011 Chapter recognised health, retirement and ageing issues were critical for us to address, and each local community was encouraged to engage a local Health Coordinator, as needed, to assist in the duty of care for our religious. This was enthusiastically endorsed and considerably eased many of the concerns about

appropriate health care.



The Chapter also recognised we had entered an age that was not only highly technical in terms of digital communication, but also in terms of regulations and government requirements.

Workplace health and safety, staff contracts and professional behaviour towards and among community members and staff were now all regulated and required that we update our own

Province policy and monitor our adherence to it. The issue of climate change



increasingly garnered world attention and fueled skepticism in the first decade of the twenty-first century.

Following the guidance of the 2006 General Chapter, Holy Spirit Province committed itself to becoming more environmentally friendly, heightening our witness to solidarity with people living in poverty and making our apostolates reflect our belief in the passion of God for the earth and its integrity.



The 2011 Chapter recognized that while we had many resources and rich experience, we could no longer sustain a Passionist mission in the three countries of our Province indefinitely by our own efforts and our own resources. The Province wanted to actively seek exchange of personnel in the PASPAC Configuration, opportunities for growing in cultural sensitivity and a commitment to an equitable sharing of resources.



In the year following the 2011 Chapter, the Provincial, Joachim Rego was elected General and Denis Travers was re-elected to the General Council. At the 2012 General Chapter, as mentioned, the Congregation voted a new structure of six Configurations of which PASPAC was one. General

Chapter established six priorities for the coming six years. These fitted well with our own Province priorities:



- The Charismatic testimony of Passionist Community
- Making our own, Christ's Passion for the Crucified and for the Earth
- Evangelisation and New Evangelisation
- Formation in Passionist Spirituality
- Lay participation in the Passionist Charism, Life & Mission
- Passionists and Youth together in Mission

(To be continued)

### **Passion Play 2023**

The Passion Play will be rehearsed and performed at the Holy Cross on **Palm Sunday** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at 1.30pm & **Good Friday** 7<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am.

The Passion Play Manager, Gino Gammaldi is seeking people willing to assist. There will be four or five Sunday afternoon rehearsals at Holy Cros starting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 1.30pm. No acting experience is required and not all roles have speaking parts. Helpers with backstage personnel are required (wardrobe, props, make-up, sound equipment etc). If you are interested in assisting, Gino can be contacted on 0422662451. The web site is: [www.passionplay.info](http://www.passionplay.info)

## Humour



### Squirrels at church

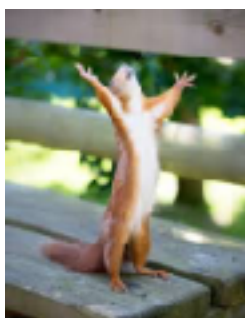
After a particularly mild winter, a small town of became infected with squirrels, in the spring.

Because the local churches had the best trees, the squirrels often congregated (pun intended) near them and this is what each church decided to do about the pesky animals.

The **Presbyterian** church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

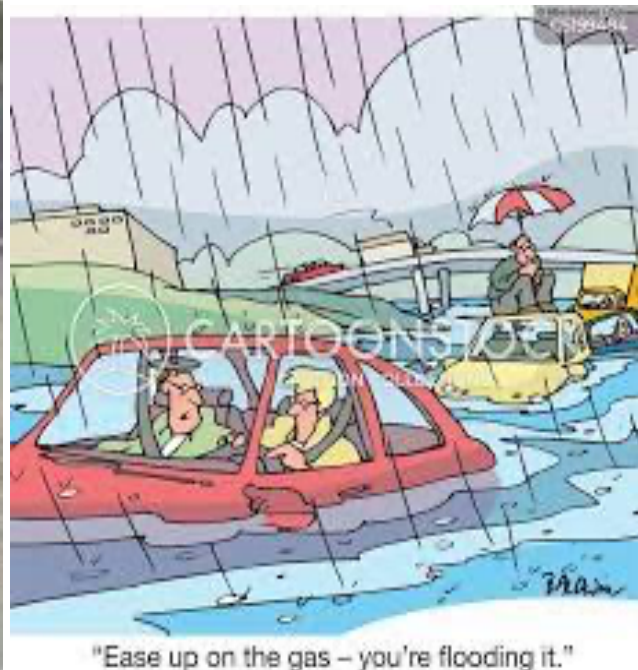
At the **Baptist** church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The **Lutheran** church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.



But the **Catholic** church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the **Jewish** synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.



A priest, a lawyer and an engineer are to be guillotined.

The priest puts his head back on the block, the rope is pulled but nothing happens. He claims he has been saved by divine intervention and is released.

The lawyer puts his head on the block, but again, nothing happens, he claims he can't be executed twice for the same crime and is set free.

The engineer places his head on the block under the guillotine. He looks up at the release mechanism and says. Wait a minute, I see where the problem it...

### A miraculous escape

89 year old Franciscan priest John Bok had an amazing escape last month driving to celebrate Mass on the feast of the Guardian angels! A young driver had a seizure and lost control of his vehicle which hurdled Fr John's vehicle without him even knowing. He thought "a bird or something" had flown over!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf68oASH5jU>

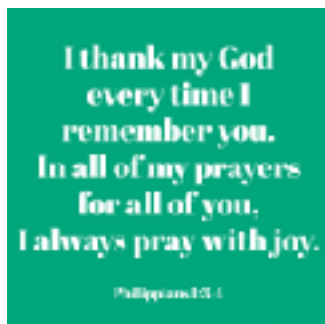
### Prayers

We remember those deceased, especially Philip McDonald, Leonora Wendel; George Wendel; Lawrence Burke; Gladys Burke; Mabel Pearce.

We especially pray for [Donald Senior CP](#) who is now in palliative care following a heart attack and then a stroke.

[Sr Rosaleen Murray CP](#) has been hospitalised with dengue fever in Saigon.

[Sr Brigid Murphy CP](#) is visiting (and working with) the local Cross and Passion sisters in Saigon for two weeks. Is it a good time or a bad time to be there with Sr Rosie in hospital?



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Maree Bartoli (in hospital), Sr Rosaleen CP (in hospital) Paul Darbyshire recovering in hospital) Jim Molan, Mary Coburn, John Lazzari, Maeve and John Reardon, Mary Dunn, Barry Wong, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Denise Glasgow, Greg Agosta, Dominic Isgro, Errol Lovett, Angelo Vigilante, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Gerry Bond, Pam Gartland, Lesley Yang, Peter DeMarzi, Jim Monaghan, Anne Jenkins, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara,

Patricia Keeghan, Michael Doyle, Mary Hackett, 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