

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 143



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

Greetings,

### Erick's hospital visit

Erick took himself to Box Hill Emergency early Sunday morning (2.30am). He was given a blood test around 6.30pm and finally diagnosed with gastro and allowed to leave at 11.20am. He said there was quite a community conversation with various people through the night. One Muslim lady mentioned 'faith' and with prayer' a few times so when she asked "what do you do?" Erick replied that he was a missionary. She said "That sounds very interesting. What machines do you work with?"

### Trees



Those who have attended Mass over the past two weeks saw evidence of a large fallen tree in the garden opposite the chapel. This was one of a number of trees about which we were concerned, but the wet and windy weather delayed the work we wanted done. On Monday three men completed the safety work. This photo shows part of the tree that fell exactly as the arborist had foretold eight months ago, with not a trace of damage to anyone or anything.

A lot of trimming was done out the front, to take the load off the tall trees and ensure no branches will fall near the driveway or the chapel entrance.

In this photo (left) you can see that there are no dangerous branches overhanging the driveway and entrance to the chapel.

The arborist is very satisfied that all the trees are safe. He was not keen to remove branches unless it was necessary for safety.

Continual monitoring will be done





The photo above shows that the trees that were overhanging the carpark have been trimmed.



Finally, the workers ensured the very large tree around the back of the property was trimmed. There has been an area roped off for months following a large branch fall. The area is still too wet to get a mulcher in, so the trimmed branches are within that roped off area for the time being.

### **PFG's**

This coming weekend, the Victorian PFG leadership and members will gather at Holy Cross to review and plan for ways to keep the spirit of Passionist Family Groups alive throughout Victoria..

### **Anointing Mass**

On Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am Mass, there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of 'Anointing of the Sick' to be communally celebrated.

### **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)

## Connected



I wrote this brief article for the spring newsletter of the PFGM. I was sitting on a train a few days ago and it was interesting to try to distinguish those passengers who were related to one another, from those who were strangers. For most, there were long periods of time when it was impossible to tell the difference. So many had the eyes fixed on their phones and their ears plugged to block out local noise.

For such an advanced species, is this really how we communicate today? Locked in to people or events far away, and blind to those around us!

It seems COVID-19 has assisted this backward step because not only are people gathering less, visiting less and hosting less, they are also connecting less with family and friends. Even a phone call to see how aged or unwell friends are managing, has become too much effort for some. Despite warning that this era might be called 'the age of loneliness' and COVID-19 has made this worse, we Christians might need to look at our responsibility to CONNECT.

We could well expect that 'Family Groupers' would be experts at connecting with the members of their Passionist Family Group, and keen to find creative ways to 'stay in touch' and reach out to those who are isolated. A parish priest recently said to me, "The Family Groups are good, but most of them are cliques; they do not try very much to reach out to others".

As we come into the months of warmer weather, perhaps we can keep that word 'connect' in our minds and hearts and then put our thoughts and feelings into action! What can I do to help others be more connected?



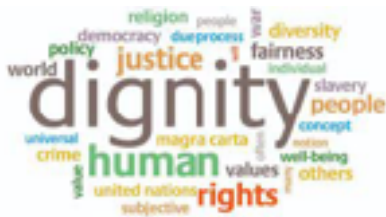
## Peace and care for creation: the pope's priorities



Pope Francis is just as concerned about saving the world from destruction as he is about converting people to Christ. Unfortunately, not all Catholics share that view. (*Published in La Croix*)

There are some Catholics who wonder why the pope, head of the largest Christian denomination on earth, doesn't focus his energies on matters concerning his Church rather than being obsessed with issues like immigration and the environment. Why is the pope turning his attention to places like Bahrain, where the Catholic presence is so negligible? A number of cardinals, bishops and a whole lot of priests and traditional lay people ask this question.

They are part of the crowd that really doesn't like the Jesuit pope or how he's "running" the Church. They believe the pope's top priority should be to focus on purely faith or religious matters. But here's the deal: everything Francis is concerned about is a matter of faith to him. Here are just a few of those things:- respecting and



protecting the dignity of every human person- being good guardians of all forms of life (i.e. caring for people and all creation)- championing the freedom of religion- promoting mutual understanding and friendship among people of differing faiths- working towards Christian unity- dialoguing with those

perceived to be enemies- promoting world peace and the elimination of weapons and war Other things could certainly be added to this list.

This pope's top priorities are not the stuff of church sacristies or speculative theology. He's focused on practice, not theory; how the Christian faith is lived out concretely, not just talked about and held up as a spiritualized paradigm. Realities really are greater than ideas for Pope Francis. And right now, he sees that there are current realities in our world that are bigger even than the seemingly all-important struggles that are taking place right now in the Catholic Church. Even more importantly, he realizes that these realities — such as the environmental crisis and what he's identified as a "third world war" being waged "piecemeal" around the globe — must be dealt with urgently.





There will be no ecclesial reforms to argue about or souls to save if we continue down our current path of systematically destroying our "common home" (the planet) and killing off our fellow humans by the hundreds each day.



The pope sees this clearly. But he sees it through eyes of faith. And that's a big reason why he accepted the invitation to go to Bahrain. It ticks most of the boxes of the core issues that matter most to him. One of the keys aspects of this papal visit to this small, majority Muslim country connected to the Arabian Peninsula is the opportunity it offers for strengthening dialogue, cooperation, respect, mutual understanding and

friendship among the various world religions.

Francis is willing to step into situations that others at times deem imprudent. He has shown time and again that he believes encounters with others who are deemed to be adversaries -- not necessarily of him, but of the papacy or the Catholic Church -- are not only worth the risk but absolutely necessary for building bonds of trust and cooperation. "If different potentates deal with each other on the basis of interests, money and power plays, may we show that another path of encounter is possible. Possible and necessary, since force, arms and money will never paint a future of peace," Francis said on Friday at the closing of the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue. "Let us encounter one another for the sake of humanity and in the name of the One who loves humanity, the One whose name is peace."



Francis added, "We appear to be witnessing a dramatic and childlike scenario. In the garden of humanity, instead of cultivating our surroundings, we are playing with fire, missiles and bombs, weapons that bring sorrow and death, covering our common home with ashes and hatred." This was the grim picture Francis put before the eyes of his fellow religious leaders.



Francis warned "Such will be the bitter consequences if we continue to accentuate conflict instead of understanding, if we persist in stubbornly imposing our own models and despotic, imperialist, nationalist and populist visions, if we are unconcerned about the culture of others, if we close our ears to the plea of ordinary people and the voice of the poor, if we continue simplistically to divide people into good and bad, if we make no effort to understand one another and to cooperate for the

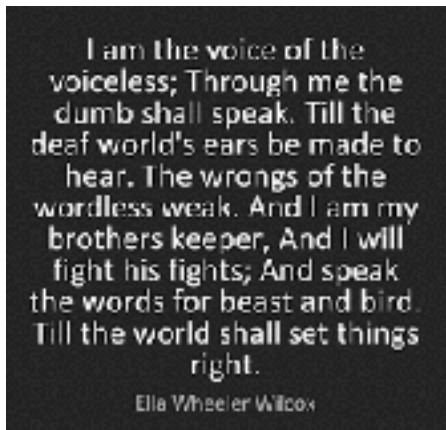


good of all. These are the choices before us since, in a globalized world, we only advance by rowing together; if we sail alone, we go adrift”.



Those who accuse the pope of being more political than spiritual should also note that Francis said "all the tragedies we are enduring" and "all the divisions we are experiencing" are rooted in the human heart. "For this reason, prayer, the opening of our hearts to the Most High, is essential for purifying ourselves of selfishness, closed-

mindedness, self-referentiality, falseness and injustice. "Let us strengthen the bonds between us, without duplicity or fear, in the name of the Creator who has put us together in this world as guardians of our brothers and sisters," the pope continued, calling for "concrete initiatives to ensure that the journey of the great religions will be ever more effective and ongoing, a conscience of peace for our world"



Francis issued this challenge and warning: The Creator invites us to act, especially on behalf all those many creatures of his who do not yet find a sufficient place on the agenda of the powerful: the poor, the unborn, the elderly, the infirm, migrants... If we who believe in the God of mercy, do not give a hearing to the poor and a voice to the voiceless, who will do it? Let us take their side; let us make every effort to assist a humanity wounded and sorely tried! By doing so, we will draw down upon our world the blessing of the Most High.

That certainly sounds like a man of faith who has his priorities in order!  
(Robert Mickens – edited)

### **Passionist Institute**

You are invited to participate in the **Centenary Province Institute** over the weekend of November 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a group gathered here at Holy Cross on Saturday from 9.45am-2.45pm and again on Sunday from 1.30pm-5.30pm.

There will be a BYO BBQ from 6.00pm to celebrate 100 years of Holy Spirit Province (Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Vietnam) and **you are most welcome to join us for the BBQ whether you participate in the Institute sessions or not.**

A Zoom link will be published in the Holy Cross newsletter on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## PROVINCE HISTORY: 10. PASPAC PARTNERSHIP (Part 2)

In February 2013 the Province established a parish community of two men in Blenheim, New Zealand. Blenheim is at the top of the South Island and the parish included a number of churches over a large geographical area.



That same month Pope Benedict resigned and Pope Francis was elected, creating a wave of optimism around the world. This was much needed because the scandals of sexual abuse by clergy had eroded a great degree of confidence among many Catholics, and aided by the new questions of science, had challenged

Catholicism to find more authenticity and relevance in its teaching, pastoral practice and liturgy.

In Australia, the federal government established a Royal Commission to examine child sexual abuse. The Commission held fifty-seven formal public hearings during which it heard evidence about child sexual abuse within institutions, from 1,200 witnesses over 400 days of hearings, across all Australian capital cities and in several regional areas. These case studies focused on how institutions had responded to allegations and proven instances of child sexual abuse. The Commissioners delivered recommendations based on what they learned during public hearing.



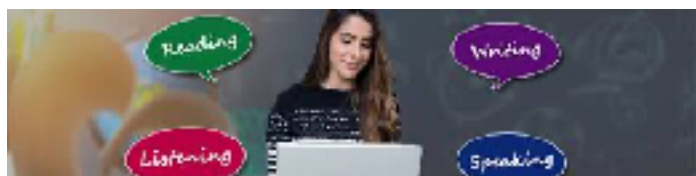
Frontpage reporting of abuse by clergy and religious became regular. This called for even greater awareness in the Province for good policy and practice in terms of integrity in ministry and sound formation for our candidates, not only in our Province but within PASPAC.

After long consultation and consideration, in October 2013 the Province sold our holiday house in Dee Why, Sydney. By this time five men from the Indian Vice-Province were living and working in the Province. These men, together with others from Africa and Indonesia were undertaking studies in Melbourne. Along with the variety of nations represented in the international novitiate in Adelaide, resulted in nearly all our communities, including Boroko and Vanim in PNG, becoming multi-cultural. This gave us something like a more normal representation of modern Australian life. At the same time, we had men



from our Province living in Rome, London and Vietnam.

In 2013 at the Province Assembly, the Provincial, Tom McDonough reminded the Province members that we had undertaken a significant journey to change our thinking from 'local community' thinking to 'whole province' thinking; a journey we are still making. Now we were being **called** to take the next step and think within the framework that the PASPAC configuration is our primary reality. At this stage in history, two-thirds of the world's population lives in this (PASPAC) region so our future is tied to the Asia Pacific region.



More than one billion people in the world speak English (375 million as a first language, the rest as their second language). A further one billion people are

studying English worldwide (at schools, colleges, universities) and 95% of all scientific documents are published in English. In their biennial meetings, the PASPAC leaders discussed and agreed that English would definitely be their common 'working' language.

In the interests of ongoing ministry, it became clear that it was necessary to provide competence in the English language. The various language schools providing English language studies were not using pastoral or spiritual language which was a big drawback. At the initiative of Kevin Hennessy and



with support from the Provincial, Tom McDonough, investigation and conversations were held with various partners and the Province Finance Committee, to consider the establishment of a Passionist English language school. It was proposed that such a school would provide practical support for mission training and formation of future Church leaders at greatly reduced cost.

The fact that Australia would have eight Passionist students (six of whom were from Vietnam) studying English in late 2013 prompted



the idea of establishing a centre to include other Religious Orders, Dioceses and non-profit organisations. This was endorsed favourably at the 2013 PASPAC Leadership Meeting in Japan.

It was agreed that four foundations (Mission, Culture, Community and Language) would underpin what became known as the ELSPM, which would be formally endorsed in time for classes to commence in Adelaide in July, 2014. A Board of Directors was appointed to oversee the establishment of the ELSPM and to meet all governance requirements.



The initial priorities for the Board were finalizing a budget, appointing executive staff, developing a Strategic Action Plan, implementing strategies within a three-year time frame and creating monitoring and reporting responsibilities to the overall governing body of the Passionist Congregation.

The first budget was prepared on the basis of eight Passionist students in 2014 requiring sufficient language tuition to transfer into the novitiate program starting in the first quarter of 2015.



It was anticipated that in 2015 there would be an additional eight Passionist students requiring two terms of 20-week courses over the calendar year and the first non-Passionist students would join the program. The Christian Brothers offered to provide facilities for lessons for five nights a week from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and Glen Osmond community provided a classroom and facilities for five hours teaching per week as well as accommodation for the

Passionist students. Other generous contributions were made to get this initiative off the ground.



In 2017, ELSPM transferred to Melbourne under the affiliation of the Yarra Theological Union, and a year later 'School' was replaced by 'Studies' in the title (English Language Studies for Pastoral Ministry).



Holy Spirit Province has invested heavily in ELSPM and we are very grateful to have dedicated staff, led by Sr Margaret Bentley fma.



Hopefully in a post COVID world, whenever that fully emerges, the PASPAC Configuration can again take up the challenge of solidarity of personnel, finances, formation and JPIC.

It is much needed in this 'change of era'.

**Clever plants - orchids**



Plants are among the most clever things in nature, and the way orchids can change their 'look' or mimic other flowering plants to attract pollination, is nothing short of amazing, as the example above illustrate. No wonder it is suggested that we need to look no further to give praise and thanks to God for the wonders life offer us.



## Humour

### Some quotes from 'Yes Minister'

#### Sir Humphrey Appleby:

1. "It could be argued that the Sermon on the Mount, had it been a government report, would never have been published".
2. "I do see that there is a real dilemma here. In that, while it has been government policy to regard policy as a responsibility of Ministers and administration as a responsibility of Officials, the questions of administrative policy can cause confusion between the policy of administration and the administration of policy, especially when responsibility for the administration of the policy of administration conflicts, or overlaps with, responsibility for the policy of the administration of policy".
3. "We can't worry about entertaining people. We are not scriptwriters for a comedian. Well not a professional one, anyway".
4. **Sir Humphrey:** "It is tiny mistake. The sort that anyone can make".  
**Minister:** "A tiny mistake? 75,000 pounds? Give me an example of a big mistake".  
**Sir Humphrey:** "Letting people find out about it".
5. "Ministers should never know more than they need to know. Then they can't tell anyone. Like secret agents, they could be captured and tortured. By the BBC!"
6. "It was a conversation to the effect that in view of the somewhat nebulous and inexplicit nature of your remit and the arguably marginal and peripheral nature of your influence on the central deliberations and decisions within the political process, that there could be a case for restructuring their action priorities in such a way as to eliminate your liquidation from their immediate agenda".
7. "In practical terms we have the usual six options. One, do nothing. Two, issue a statement deploring the speech. Three, lodge an official protest. Four, cut off aid. Five, break off diplomatic relations; and six, declare war. I we do nothing we implicitly agree with the foreign minister's inflammatory speech. Two: if we issue a statement we'll just look foolish. Three: if we lodge a protest it will be ignored. Four: we can't cut off aid because we don't give them any. Five: if we break off diplomatic relations

we can't negotiate the oil rig contracts. And six: if we declare war it might just look as though we were over-reacting.

**Foreign Secretary:** "In the old days we'd have sent in a gunboat".

**Minister:** "I suppose a gunboat is absolutely out of the question".

### November and the Burkes

On Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, **Ann Burke** will be 76 and **Frank**, 80. A little over a week later on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, they will celebrate their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations Frank and Ann.

**Ted Hallam** also celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow (November 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Graeme Brennan** celebrates his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>.

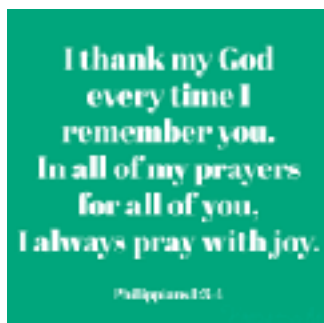
**Mary and Dennis Cogle** recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations and blessings to them.

### Prayers

We remember **Fr Louie Fuentespina** CP, aged 55 who was elected Provincial of the Passionists in the Philippines early this year. Louie died on Tuesday. Also **Fr Donald Senior CP** who has been one of the world's leading Catholic Biblical scholar. He was former president of Catholic Theological College (CTU) and a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Don also died on Tuesday.

We also remember **Neville Hughes** a friend of the Hartridge family who passed away on 2/11/2022. We remember those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**Lawrence Brolly** (Nov 8<sup>th</sup>) **Jan Emilianowicz** (Nov 10<sup>th</sup>), **Shirley Fitzsimons** (Nov 11<sup>th</sup>), **Frank Gagliardi** (Nov 13<sup>th</sup>), Dorothy Smith (Nov 15<sup>th</sup>), **Ray Milton** (Nov 17<sup>th</sup>) and **Judy Milton** (Nov 18<sup>th</sup>)



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



Mary and Kate Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP and those who seek or need our prayers.

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