

Holy Cross Retreat

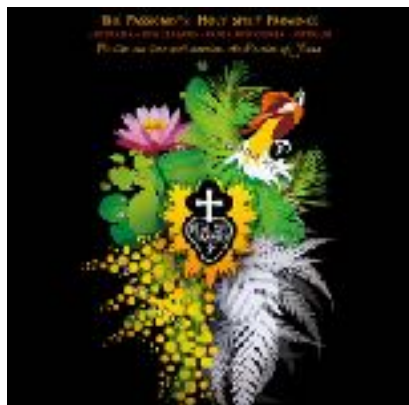
Letter 156



9th February, 2023

Greetings,

Province Assembly



Every four years, Passionists who belong to a common Province gather for a Provincial Chapter to review the past four years, plan ahead and elect a Provincial and Council for a four-year term. Holy Spirit Province includes Australia, PNG, New Zealand and Vietnam. As part of our preparations for the Chapter which will be held in July, we will have three regional Assemblies, one in Melbourne, one in Sydney and one in Saigon. Each Assembly will be for two days. The first of these meetings will be held today and tomorrow at Holy Cross. Participants from our communities will attend

one of the three meetings.

Already the Province has been invited to offer feedback to three key questions:

1. What are our priority challenges and opportunities in the next four years?
2. What are our best possibilities to live our values into the future?
3. What is God asking of me as a Passionist in today's world?



The responses have been divided into five categories.

Culture and Identity, Mission and Ministry, Community and Formation, Finance, Leadership and Governance



These will be the focus areas of our considerations, recognising that we are experiencing an obvious decline and ageing of professed membership Australia in New Zealand; ongoing challenges for religious life in Papua New Guinea (having suffered a number of departures in this past four-year period), and the challenges that arise from rapid

growth in Vietnam with the lack of opportunities provided by Bishops for pastoral engagement, and the reliance on young and inexperienced religious as formators.

A message from the Sisters



A big thank you to our Passionist Brothers, Companions and Friends for all the love and support we have received not only in these last weeks but over many years.

Karen's final profession has given us an occasion to say a heartfelt thank you and assurance of our support and prayer for you all.



To those who were unable to join us but were with us in spirit please find the link to the recording of the service, here.

<https://youtu.be/of7bK7PgezQ>

With every blessing,
Sisters Therese, Brigid, Karen and Emily
on behalf of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion

Come Away Day

The first Come Away Day of the year will be held at Holy Cross on Tuesday 21st February. The theme of the day is *"Living from your heart."* The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. BYO lunch. For further details contact Frank Burke- burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a Mass at Holy Cross on Wednesday February 22nd at 9.15am.

St Gabriel festa



The annual festa will be held this year on February 26th, the day before the feast of Passionist, St Gabriel. Mass will be at 10.30am. This will be preceded by the rosary and followed by the procession, lunch and musical entertainment. A corpus has been added to the cross in the shrine, in time for this occasion.

We want to acknowledge Dominic Isgro, a long time integral part of the St Gabriel's Committee and generous helper around Holy Cross until ill-health affected him. Dominic is 90 years of age, and coming to the end of his life. We give thanks for him, for Lucia, for Sylvana and their family.

Homily advice from Pope Francis



"Lengthy, abstract homilies are "a disaster," so preaching should be limited to 10 minutes", Pope Francis said. Speaking off the cuff to diocesan liturgical directors on January 20th, the pope said homilies are not academic conferences. "I sometimes hear people say, 'I went to this parish, and yes it was a good philosophy lesson, 40, 45 minutes,'" he said.

Francis encouraged priests to keep their homilies to "no more than eight to 10 minutes" and always include in them "a thought, a feeling and an image," so that "the people may bring something home with them." Homilies are "sacramentals" to be "prepared in prayer" and "with an apostolic spirit," he said. But, in the Catholic Church, he said, "in general, the homilies are a disaster."



The liturgical directors were in Rome to participate in a formation course on liturgy, "Living Liturgical Action Fully," at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. Francis said that



experts on liturgy must have a strong pastoral sense to improve a community's liturgical life, and that religious celebrations must foster the "fruitful participation of the people of God" and not just of the clergy. A pastoral approach to the liturgy allows religious celebrations to "lead the people to Christ, and Christ to the people," which the pope said is the "principal objective" of liturgy and an essential principle of the Second Vatican Council. "If we neglect this, we will have beautiful rituals, but without vigour, without flavour, without sense, because they do not touch the heart and the existence of the people of God," said Francis.

Note: There is no information provided as to whether Pope Francis consulted Graeme Newcome about the issue of the length of homilies, but Graeme is delighted that they are on the same wavelength!

- One Sunday, it was too much for Ed. He was bored by the homily. His friend John came out and joined him. Ed asked, "Has he finished yet". John said, "He's finished but he hasn't stopped".

- A teenager returned from Mass one morning. His mother asked him, “what did the priest preach about today?”. He replied, “He didn’t say”.

The Holy Cross labyrinth

Immediately below is a photograph of our labyrinth, taken in April 2020.



The photograph below was taken earlier this week. It shows the surrounding trees have grown – and so have the weeds which when Brigid was living here, she generously and laboriously managed!



We came to the conclusion that maintaining the labyrinth is beyond us. It has become overgrown and an eyesore, instead of an attraction. We have extensive grounds and gardens to

maintain, and the labyrinth as it was created, is beyond our capacity.



The installation of the labyrinth was Luke’s brainchild, and it involved a lot of work from himself and fellow students, including the breaking up of many large rocks and placing them around the paths. There are somewhere between 1200 and 1500 rocks. It is a good feature to have as part of a retreat centre, so we asked Vince if we removed the rocks (which we have done), could he lay down crushed rock that

would not allow weeds to grow through, and then we would rearrange the rocks in position. Typically, Vince was only too happy to help. So that is the project.



A labyrinth is not a maze! It is one path to the centre but it moves in and out as a symbol of the inner-outward journey each of us is on as we journey through life. There are no blind alleys or dead ends. It is a symbol of pilgrimage and journey and found in many cultures and traditions. The 11-circuit labyrinth has an asymmetrical, mathematically and visually complex pattern in which every quadrant is different. The path twists

and turns so that you move towards the centre and out again – as if towards and away from God.



Christian usage goes back to the one constructed on the floor of Chartres Cathedral near Paris around 1200 CE. It symbolised the journey to the Holy Land which became impossible during the Crusades (the wars fought between Christians and Muslims to regain Jerusalem from Muslim control). The seating is moved so that every Friday, ‘pilgrims’ can ‘walk’ the labyrinth. Labyrinths are found in Gothic Cathedrals throughout Europe.

The Bulley family visit



Luke has just completed a family holiday with his parents Adrian and Barbara, and siblings Kate and Peter.

We were fortunate to be able to host them last Friday evening for a meal (cooked by Chris) and an overnight stay. By the time this photo was taken only the stalwarts remained!

The students now have a very good understanding of the word ‘massive’, because it is a popular family word. In terms of height (not massive) 21 year old Peter is about on a par with Luke! “That’s massive!”



Speaking of massive: How is the Tibetan Mastiff dog!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP9I9UnDlvM>

Women's Friendship Group Manningham



The craft arm of this group meets twice a month to knit, crochet and sew articles to be distributed to many many groups around Australia and overseas. Just a couple of the places the articles go to are, the Royal Women's Hospital, Neo Natal ward, knitted baby outfits and beautifully knitted & crocheted toys.

Wheelchairs for Kids: a rug and a teddy bear goes with each wheelchair and these have gone to PNG as well as other places in Australia and overseas . That's only the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of items are sent to many people in need.



To get to the point they are in need of wool and buttons of all types, if you have either of these items stuck in a cupboard, that you don't want to throw out, but won't use, please bring it along and donate to this group. You can be assured it will be used for a great purpose. There is a checked bag in the foyer at Holy Cross to collect items. Thank you all so much.

Maree Butler on behalf of the Group.

Are you observant?

Can you spot the 3 differences in 90 seconds?



Humour

1. James prayed: "Lord how long is a million years to you?" He heard God reply, "It is only a second". Jamie prayed again, "Lord, how much is a million dollars to you?" He heard God reply, "It is but a dollar to me". Jamie prayed again, "Lord can I have a dollar?" He heard God say, "Just give me a second".

2. A priest was in the habit of reading every words of his long and tedious sermons. One member of the Congregation went to the lectern and removed one page at random from his written notes. Half way through the sermon, the priest read, "And Adam said to Eve..". He paused and said, "And Adam said to Eve....there seems to be a leaf missing"!

3. Advice offered a homilist. 'If after ten minutes you have not struck gold, stop boring'.

4. More advice: A homily should have a good opening, a good ending, and they should be as close together as possible"

5. A preacher who was renowned for his long and boring sermons, announced one Sunday that he was to be transferred and that it was Jesus' wish that he leave that same week. The choir rose and began to sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus".

6. Q. What does it usually mean when the homilist takes off his watch and puts it oin the lectern? A. Nothing!

7. A priest started his homily by saying, "I am wearing this band-aid because I cut my chin while I was thinking about today's homily". An old man at the back was heard to say, "Hopefully next week he will think about his chin and cut the homily"

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR NOSE WHEN YOU'RE BORED...Pick one!

- 10) Look down it at somebody (Pride)
- 09) Poke it into someone else's business (Strife / Dissension)
- 08) Snoop around with it (Nosey / Gossip)
- 07) Get it out of joint (Anger)
- 06) Cut it off to spite your face (Bitterness)
- 05) Pay through it (Materialism)
- 04) Find something right under it (Love / Salvation)
- 03) See past it (Eternity / Hope)
- 02) Keep it clean (Humility / Obedience)



Annual Pastoral Care Appeal



This Sunday donations are being sought for the provision of chaplaincy (hospital, prisons, youth etc) in Melbourne Archdiocese. This important ministry provides spiritual and comfort, to individual and families facing illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death.

Cash or cheque donations can be made on Sunday via envelopes provided in our foyer, by scanning the QR code in the glass notice board outside our chapel, or directly: BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 171 551 421
Bank: NAB Account name: Catholic Care Victoria

Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible and receipts will be provided to donors who provide their contact details.

World Day of the Sick



This **Saturday, February 11th**, is World Day of the Sick. We have many people on our prayer list at Holy Cross. There are many more who could be added. Every one of us knows people who are suffering from ill-health. It would be a good gesture to reach out to them this Saturday and assure them of our care and concern. This is also a day to acknowledge the wonderful gift doctors, nurses and other practitioners offer, as well as the many volunteer carers and visitors.

Jeff Foale



This Sunday, Jeff will celebrate 70 years of professed Passionist life. Jeff is from the town of Pinaroo in South Australia. Jeff was ordained in 1958 and was asked to join the newly founded mission in Papua New Guinea in 1961. The treatment of refugees from West Papua by the Indonesian army left a lasting impression on him. He undertook the physical work of building airstrips and establishing mission centres in several villages. The toll on him resulted in him returning to Australia

‘a wreck’. Jeff slowly recovered and while doing so undertook a course with Tom Berry CP and Brian Swimme’ on Creation spirituality.



Jeff was appointed to the retreat house in Glen Osmond and he responded passionately to the refugee crisis in 1975. He co-founded ICRA (Indo-China Refugee Association) and in 1979 with the support of the Glen Osmond community behind him, Jeff secured permission to ‘hand over’ the retreat house in Glen Osmond, Adelaide to assist in the settlement of refugees.

When this project ended in 1984, over eleven hundred Cambodian refugees had been helped to resettle. Jeff’s ministry expanded and spanned the whole of Australia and reached out to refugee camps and to the United Nations in

Geneva. Jeff was He was elected President of the Refugee Council of Australia and became the Adelaide Archdiocesan Vicar for Multiculturalism. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

In 1994, while a member of the Province Provincial Council, Jeff was elected a consulter to the General and spent twelve years in this role, taking a special interest in the PASPAC region. As a result of agitating for a Passionist presence in Vietnam, the General encouraged Jeff to explore and later to co-found our presence there in 2005.



Eighteen years later, seventy years professed and two months short of turning 90, Jeff is still fully engaged in ministry. His contribution to our Province, to PASAPC and the wider Congregation as well as to the Church and underprivileged and suffering, is inspirational. We should not overlook his contribution in earlier days to Kodak! We extend Congratulations and Prayers to Jeff on this milestone.

Fr Chris Mithen CP



As reported, Chris is back at Nazareth House and was visited by a few members of the community last Saturday.

To be visited by permanent (Erick, JD and Phi) and temporary (Tony and Kien) members of Holy Cross community from three different non-Australian countries is truly a happy sign of our times.

Fr Brian Gleeson CP

Brian is still patiently waiting for surgery

Fr Peter Gaughan CP

Peter has been living with leukaemia for some years and he is now accepting and peaceful that his days are few. Having always had a very deep spirituality, Peter has lived with and is especially now living with, a deep calm and confidence in God's love.

Maree Egar

Tony Egar's sister-in-law (Celine Bowman's mother) is to be buried in Adelaide on Friday February 10th. Tony is based in Glen Osmond and Celine is a member of the

PFGM National Team, with responsibility for Queensland and northern NSW. We offer our condolences to Celine, Tony and the Egar family.

Pat LaManna OAM



We have been advised by his daughter, that Pat is dying. Since 1997, Pat has been patron and financial sponsor for the Passion Play that is being held again this year at Holy Cross. Over many years, Pat has been an incredible fund raiser supporting numerous charities and people in need.

We remember those who have died, especially **Maree Egar** and those whose anniversaries are around this time.

We pray also for all of our Holy Cross family who are seriously unwell especially **Dominic Isgro, Peter Gaughan CP** and **Gerald Wright**.

We also remember Maree Bartoli, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, John Lazzari, Michael Doyle, Maeve Reardon, Paul Darbyshire Lynda Chin, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, Gerry Bond, Helen McLean, Peter Owen, Margaret Wright, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Jim Monaghan, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Marg Casey, Patricia Keeghan, Mary Hackett, Anne Jenkins, Mary and Kate Dunn.

The **Mass link** will be sent by Chris.

Brian