

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 158

24th February, 2023

Greetings,

Province Assembly Number 2 – Vietnam

In line with our first Province Assembly, there is no summary news from the Second Assembly this past week in Saigon. The third Assembly will be in Sydney next Friday and Saturday. Following that we should have some helpful data concerning the challenges and hopes we have for our Provincial Chapter in July.

Chapel entrance

Joe Curcio and Tim Horlock did a marvellous job cleaning the tiles at the entrance to the chapel on Monday this week. In line with Mary McKillop's advice, Joe saw a need for this to be cleaned and he did something about it. Tim did some general cleaning up around the area. Thank you Joe.

Sergio Mattioli

After a brief illness this time, Sergio passed away on Tuesday. He battled pancreatic cancer successfully and was in remission for a time, but the cancer reappeared in the liver. The community want to express our sincere gratitude for his great generosity to us. With Silvana's support and the aid of sons and workmates, Sergio undertook extensive painting work throughout the community and Centre areas over many years. Chris will lead his funeral service from St Greg's next Wednesday at 10.30am.

Dominic Isgro

Dominic is continuing palliative care. He will be sadly and fondly remembered over the St Gabriel festivities this weekend.

Learning from history



Last year our Province celebrated our founding one hundred years earlier. [Jeff Foale](#) gave an excellent presentation but the audio was deficient. With assistance from Tri, Jeff re-recorded his talk, titled, 'Learning from History'. Given Jeff joined the Passionists in 1946 and lived with men who had either been pioneers or knew those pioneers personally, he has a unique perspective. His 31 minute video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/W4I0EXU6AYQ>

St Gabriel festa

The annual St Gabriel festa will be held this Sunday February 26th, the day before Gabriel's feast. Mass will be at 10.30am followed by the procession, lunch and musical entertainment. You are invited to come and share the day, including lunch (which can be purchased) and entertainment. There will be a fair bit of cleaning up late in the week.



Gabriel is world patron of Youth. In 1959, Pope John XXIII named him the patron of the Abruzzi region, where he spent the last two years of his life. Over two million pilgrims visit his shrine every year at the foot of Gran Sasso. His mother died when he was four, and his father moved the family from Assisi where he was born, to Spoleto. His family was wealthy and he was well educated. Because of his outstanding public speaking skills, his father had great hopes for him having a professional career. His 26 year old sister Teresa was like a second mother to him and when she died of cholera in June 1855 he changed from being a bit of a party boy and decided to enter the Passionists. He died in 1862 of TB at the age of twenty-four.

His vocational story is classic, and had some parallels with St Francis. Both were baptised in the same font in the same church in Assisi and when he was baptised, he was named Francis. The Passionist residence in Grand Sasso in the Abruzzi region was built originally by St Francis of Assisi. Now there is a huge shrine dedicated to St Gabriel, with a huge basilica built twenty-five years ago, to accommodate the huge crowds who come.



It is hard for anyone to explain how Gabriel became famous. He was barely 24 years old when he died and not yet ordained, so he had little contact with people in his years as a Passionist. He did not become the general of the Congregation as two of his classmates did. He did not become a missionary, a teacher or an author. He did not even become a priest. He never visited Rome. His experience of Passionist life did not include the more famous communities of Monte Argentario or Sts John and Paul's.



it took six months for notice of his death in isolated Isola to reach the Generalate in Rome! No one seemed to be upset that news about the death of an insignificant student was delayed so long.

But some remembered. There were men in his community including his formators, and people around Isola who knew Gabriel and admired him. When the Passionists tried to close the house at Isola and to remove the bodies of those buried there, the people kept watch and would not let "their Gabriel" be taken from them. In that age of holy and mighty popes and bishops, of illustrious kings and rulers, of learned theologians, philosophers, and scientists, many Italian Catholics felt closer to someone who was more like themselves, and total devoted to God



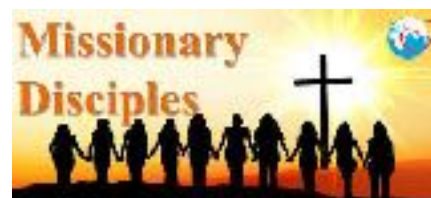
Lent



There are more than 140 mentions of 'forty' in the Bible. Some better known ones are: There were 'forty days and forty nights' of rain while Noah was in the ark. Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mt Sinai. The Israelites wandered for forty years in the wilderness. Jesus fasted for forty days. Luke said there were forty days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension. It seems that 'forty' did not have a literal meaning, but a symbolic one, often associated with a period of preparation or trial. The church extended this idea by allocating forty days between Easter and Pentecost, and from Ash Wednesday through the season of Lent, until Holy Thursday. In fact, that period is 44 days, so again we have to bow to the symbolic meaning.

Lent is a time of preparation and renewal. We are invited to spend this time discerning what in our life needs renewal or repentance, and of course taking steps to respond to what we discern. The readings for ash Wednesday highlight that our renewal has to be of the heart, not simply external activities. Pope Francis reminds us that we are missionary disciples, and by living this life with awareness, we become witnesses to Jesus and the life he calls us to imitate. The Lenten task is not to admire Jesus, but to grow in imitation of him.

Fr Brendan Daly from New Zealand has included in an article, 'Soon after his Papal election in 2013, Pope Francis expressed his vision of what a renewed church could be like.' Francis said, "I dream of a "missionary option", that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and



structures can be suitable channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation".

Don't tell anyone else, but....

One day an acquaintance of the famous philosopher Socrates ran up to him and said, "do you know what I just heard about Plato?" "Wait just a moment," Socrates said to the man, "Before you tell me, I'd like to ask you three questions.

"**First**, have you made sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "I only just heard about it."

"All right," Socrates said. "You don't really know if it's true or not.

So my **second** question is 'what you are about to tell me something good?' "No, it is not", the man replied" "So," Socrates continued, "You want to tell me something about another person that is bad, and it may not be true?" The man was embarrassed. Socrates continued,

"My **third** question is, will this information be useful to me?" The man replied, "No, not really." "Well," Socrates said, "If what you want to tell me is not true, it is not good and it is not useful, why tell me?"



This six year old young boy, Iko Idris Awad handed Pope Francis a bank note when he was in South Sudan recently.

Lost dog ad - touching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWHF9Yk9aI4>

A load of rubbish - educative

Scroll to the video: <https://tasstudent.com/2015/11/10/what-is-obsolence/>

Death by Design (47 minutes) – revealing and educative

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x659u5p>

Anyone for a pivot? (Kevin? Maree?)



The Geelong Football Club was formed in 1859 at a time when the club system was informal. They were known at that time as the Seagulls, with the dark blue and white striped uniform representing the blue water of Corio Bay and the white seagulls that inhabited the area.

In 1878 Geelong became known as the Pivotonians – because Geelong was the pivotal point for all shipping and railway routes in the region. Imagine today cheering for the Pivotonians! “Carn the Pivotors!”



The club assumed a new nickname, ‘the Cats’, after a spate of losses early in the 1923 season prompted a cartoonist to suggest Geelong needed a black cat to bring it good luck. The club started to win games, but because their colours were blue and white, the black cat

gave way to a blue and white cat!



So as a new season dawns, Can you hear Kevin Hennessy yelling...”C’arn the Seagulls” ...sorry “the Pivotonians”sorry the “Black Cats”sorry the “blue and white Cats!”



Repairs



A large property like Holy Cross has significant maintenance issues. Some things tick along with no trouble and then all of a sudden, they need hospital treatment. Our cold room motor (the freezer for food for the Holy Cross Centre and for our bread) broke down and was limping along for a few days.

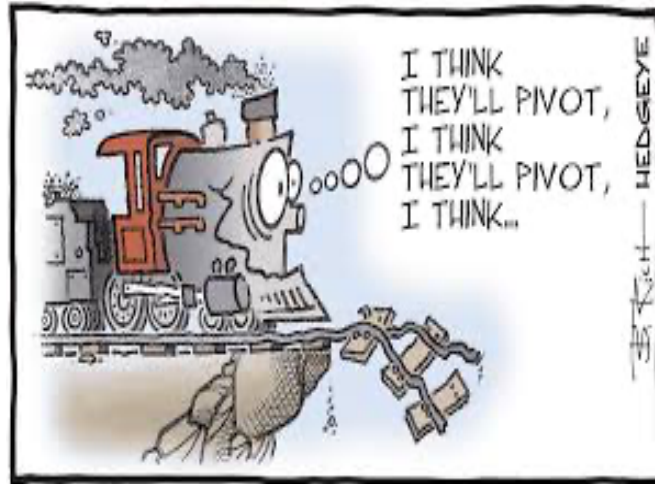
Yesterday, we were advised that we need to replace the entire unit, which is possibly as old as the building. It has served us well. We have to hope that a (modern) replacement can be found that fits the space. Unfortunately there will no bread this Sunday.



At the same time our ride on mower-tractor has been in for repairs. We think we have had it for fifteen years, and while we will keep it for carting materials around the grounds, we will need to purchase a new ride-on (probably a zero turn) mower. Also one of our hand-mowers has been in for repairs, and tomorrow it will come back from hospital and another one will go in for

treatment.

Humour



1. There is a self-help group for compulsive talkers. It is called On and On Anon
2. Patient: "Nurse. This hospital is no good. They treat us like dogs".
Nurse: "Mr Jones, you know that's not true. No roll over!"
3. A man said to his doctor, "I think I have delusions. I keep thinking I am a shopping bag". The doctor examined him and said, 'There's nothing to worry about. You've got a virus and I think you're the carrier'".
4. A young man asked if he could participate in a drive to sell bibles door to door. The pastor agreed, but knowing the young man had a bad stutter, he only gave him 3 bibles to sell. The following day the young man returned asking for more bibles to sell. The preacher gave him another 5 bibles.

Another day later the pastor gave him another 10. By the end of the week, the young man broke the church's all-time record for the highest number of bibles sales in one week. The pastor concluded that this must have been the result of divine intervention. He was dumbfounded and had to know the young man's secret.

So he asked the young man how he was able to sell so many bibles in such a short amount of time. The young man said; I asked th-th-th-th-them if th-th-th- th- they wan-wan-wan-want-wanted to b-b--b-buy a by-by-by-bible or sh-sh-sh=shh-shoud-I re-re-re-read-it to-to-to th-th-th-them!

- 5 . A man called his doctor to book an appointment. The receptionist said, "The doctor can see you in two weeks. He replied, "But I could be dead by then!" "That's no problem" the receptionist replied. If your wife calls and lets us know, we'll cancel the appointment".

6. The hospital patient was worried. He asked, "Doctor are you sure it's pneumonia? I've heard of people being diagnosed of pneumonia, but they end up dying of something else!

"Don't worry" said the doctor. "When I treat a patient for pneumonia, they die of pneumonia!"

7. "What possible excuse have you got for acquitting this defendant, a judge shouted at the jury?"

"Insanity" replied the foreman

"What?" said the judge, "A twelve of you?"





You can have 2 of my best helicopter pilots for free. They're called Andrew and Harry

22:31

Licence



Yesterday, [Tri](#) was successful in his motor vehicle driving test. This will be a big advantage in reducing the number of trips other community members have to do to get men and to and from YTU at Box Hill. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Peter Norman (who took Tri to Ringwood the test) and Joe Senzo. They have spent many hours with Tri as a Learner. They are also helping Phi and JD in the same way.

Congratulations

[Brother Ed Braden CP](#) (another seagull-turned Pivotonian-turned cat supporter, will celebrate his 60th profession next Thursday, March 2nd. Late last year Ed transferred from our community in Hobart to live in an aged care home near his family in Geelong.

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently especially [Sergio Mattioli](#) and [Terence Lim Ting Yan](#) (a relative of Grace Ko), and those whose anniversaries are around this time, especially Tony De Blasio (25th) Stan Wells (27th) , Val Carrig 1st March; Maxine Vita (2nd March) and Lucy Varessa.

Also

[Joan and Michael O'Callaghan](#) have taken an option for respite care for two weeks.

[Pam Story](#) is entering hospital for major surgery on March 2nd and would be grateful for your prayers

We ask that you continue to keep [Peter Gaughan CP](#), [Brian Gleeson CP](#), [Dominic Isgro](#), and [Gerald Wright](#) in your prayers, please.

Other prayers



We pray also for all of our other Holy Cross family who are unwell especially Sergio's wife Silvana, and their family, Grace Ko and her family, Maree Bartoli, Carol Battistella, Margaret Wright, Michael Doyle, Carol Battistella, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Lynda Chin, Gerry Bond Paul Darbyshire, Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, , Peter Owen, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Norm Heyhorn, Chris O'Toole, Angelo Vigilante, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Jim Monaghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Marg Casey, Patricia Keeghan, Mary Hackett, Mary and Kate Dunn. Anne Jenkins

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

Brian