

## Holy Cross Retreat



### Letter 159

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023

Greetings,

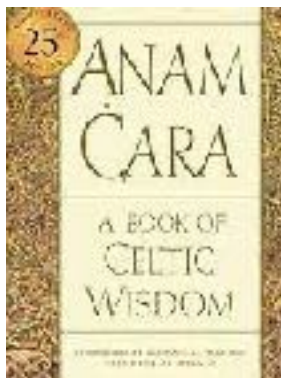
### Province Assembly Number 3

The third Province Assembly will take place this Friday and Saturday in Sydney. Following that Assembly a synthesis of the issues raised will be disseminated. In the coming months there will be Zoom sessions for Chapter delegates and some of these sessions will include members of the Passionist Family so that they can contribute to the Chapter agenda.

### St Gabriel festa

Last Sunday the weather was kind and a very enjoyable and successful celebration was held for the feast of St Gabriel. The stalwarts of the San Gabriele Committee, most of whom are in their 80's were at it again, setting up tents, chairs and tables on Saturday and dismantling it all on Sunday and putting it away. They are inspirational, and all the while, the women were cooking, serving and cleaning as they always do. A new cover for the altar in the shrine will be made which will enhance that area, which looks so much better for the retiling and paving organised by Sergio Mattioli whose funeral was celebrated by Fr Chris on Wednesday.

### Come Away Day



The recent retreat day was well attended and much appreciated. One reflection on the day centred on this thought from John O'Donohue, from 'Anam Cara'.

“There is a beautiful complexity of growth within the human soul. In order to glimpse this, it is helpful to visualize the mind as a tower of windows. Sadly, many people remain trapped at the one window, looking out every day at the same scene in the same way. Real growth is experienced when you draw back from that one window, turn, and walk around the inner tower of the soul and see all the different windows that await your gaze.

Through these different windows, you can see new vistas of possibility, presence, and creativity. Complacency, habit, and blindness often prevent you from feeling your life. So much depends on the frame of vision -- the window through which you look”.

The next Come Away' day will be on **Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## John Qi CP



Thank you Brian for sharing my day with our Passionist families, you really helped me a lot! I felt very tired after the Mass and the party, and I didn't sleep well last night.

Thank God, everything went well with His blessing and the prayers of all my brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, my parents couldn't get their visas on time, and my visa will expire on 4th March. I will be back home on 3rd March and meet my parents at my sister's house.

Luckily I have brothers and sisters with me and companions and benefactors who participated in the event.

I made a banner for the ceremony of my perpetual vows, and I have attached it here. From a distance, it looks like a Chinese word: 苦 which represents the identity of the Passionists. The cross in the middle is the cross of Jesus, who carried the suffering of our humanity (right cross) and the suffering of Mother Earth (left cross). You can clearly see our Passionist sign, but in the red heart, there is a whip (P), two nails (composed A), hooks (SS), spear (I), and thorn (O). These torturing tools bring us the grace of Jesus (his precious blood), so, the moment of suffering is the moment of grace.

**Be With Me** On the banner, there are three letters: B (west), W (south), and M (east), they stand for 'Be With Me'. I heard Jesus invite me to be with him on my first day of my 30 day retreat. This phrase came up many times in my prayers and guided me throughout the whole retreat. I've been happy to share this with anyone I meet and they all love it. so I share it with you so that you may remain in peace and love in God's presence.

Please say thanks to everyone, especially for the many messages and thanks to them for their prayers and support.

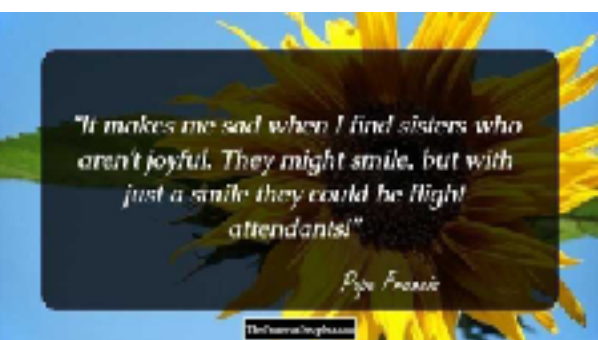
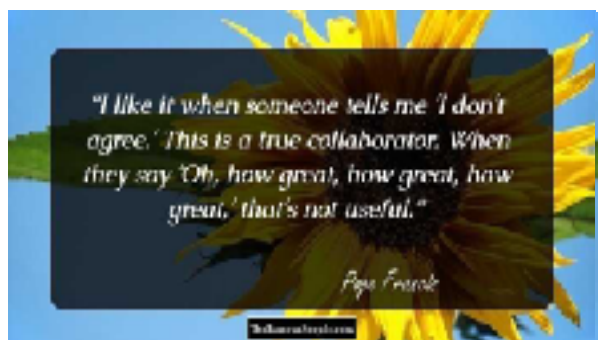
John Qi cp

## Erick studying

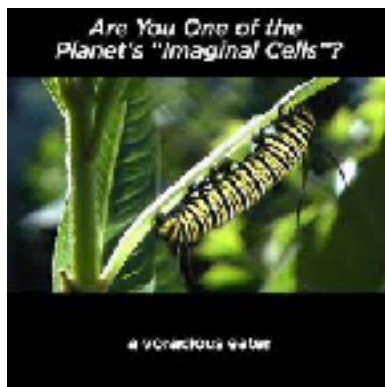
Last year, Erick completed a course in Spiritual Leadership. This week he began a two-year Counselling course. This will help Erick in his present ministry and he hopes in the future it will assist him in the pastoral care of refugees.

## Pope Francis

The 10 anniversary of Pope Francis pontificate is approaching so for a few weeks we'll include some of his quotes.

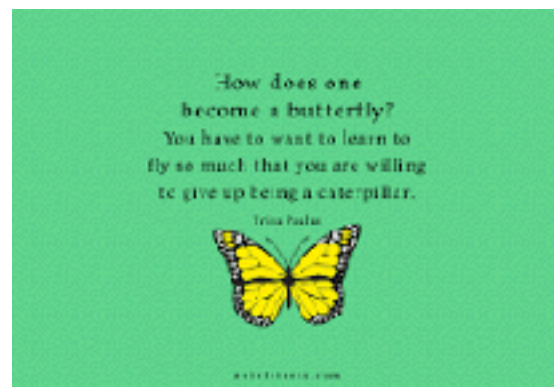


## Learning from butterflies

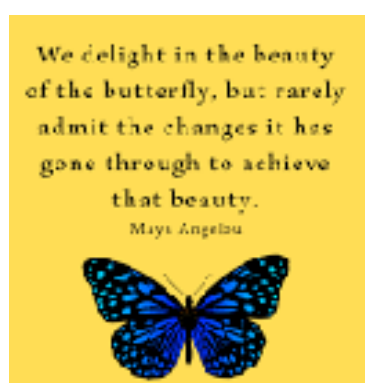


Bruce Lipton suggests that to better understand the opportunity hidden in today's crises, consider the tale of another world in transition. Imagine you are a single cell among millions that comprise a growing caterpillar. The structure around you has been operating like a well-oiled machine, and the larva world has been creeping along predictably. Then one day, the machine begins to shudder and shake. The system begins to fail. Cells begin to commit suicide. There is a sense of darkness and impending doom.

From within the dying population, a new breed of cells begins to emerge, called *imaginal cells*. (aka YOU!) Clustering in community, they devise a plan to create something entirely new from the wreckage. Out of the decay arises a great flying machine—a butterfly—that enables the survivor cells to escape from the ashes and experience a beautiful world, far beyond imagination. Here is the amazing thing: the caterpillar and the butterfly have the exact same DNA. They are the same organism, but are receiving and responding to different organizing signals.



That is where we are today. When we read the newspaper and watch the evening news, we see the media reporting a decaying caterpillar world. And yet everywhere, **you** and other human imaginal cells are awakening to a new possibility. We are clustering, communicating, and tuning into a new, coherent signal of love.





Imaginal cells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DLokOOZlag>

### They will know we are Christians by our.....

The light turned amber, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the pedestrian crossing, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.



The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. While still ranting, a very serious police officer tapped on



her window. He ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I had already noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker on your vehicle, the 'Choose Life' number plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the boot, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car!"



### Riddles

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
3. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still

may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.

4. Q. What can run but not walk? A.

5. The more you take, the more you leave behind? A.

6. David's father has three sons, Snap, Crackle and \_\_\_\_\_?

### Humour

1. A man is about to tee off and was approached by a man who held out a card that read. I am a deaf mute. May I please play through?

The first man gave the card back, angrily shaking his head, and saying, no, you CANNOT play through. He assumed the guy could read his lips so he shouted, I can't believe you would try and use your handicap to your own advantage like that! Shame on you!

The deaf man walked away and the first man whacked the ball onto the green and then walked off to finish the hole. Just as he was about to putt the ball into the hole he was hit in the head with a golf ball that knocked him out cold.

When he came to a few minutes later, he looked around and saw the deaf mute sternly looking at him with one hand on his hip, the other hand holding up four (fore) fingers!

2. A man visiting a graveyard read a tombstone. Here lies John Kelly. A lawyer and an honest man. The man said "Imagine that, they've got three men buried in one grave"

3. A young executive stepped on to the escalator. It was obvious he was upset. "Are you OK?" a man standing a step below asked?

"Nepotism", the young man replied. My boss overlooked me and appointed his nephew as manager.

"Bad luck", the other man said as he handed him his car. "If you need any help, please feel free to call me. The young man glanced at the card. "O'Brien, O'Brien, O'Brien and O'Brien. Barristers"

4. Before a burglary trial, the judge explained to the defendant, "You can let me try your case, or you can choose to have a jury of your peer".

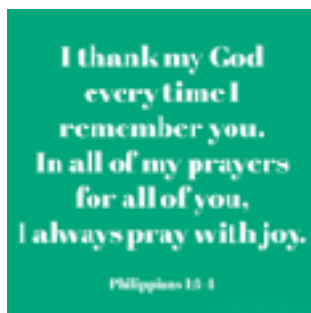
"What are peers?" the man asked.

The judge replied. "They are people just like yourself".

"Forget it", the defendant said, "I don't want to be tried by a bunch of thieves"



## Prayers



We pray for our Passionist brothers who are unwell, especially Peter Gaughan CP and Brian Gleeson CP.

We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Dominic Isgro, Pam Storey, Michael Doyle, Maree Bartoli, Carol Battistella, Gerald & Margaret Wright, Joan and Michael O'Callaghan, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Ted Hallam, Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Lynda Chin, Paul Darbyshire, Gerry Bond Alexander Lim, Des Grisell, , Peter Owen, Helen McLean, 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, Mary Hackett, Patricia Keegan, Anne Jenkins, Mary and Kate Dunn.

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

Brian

PS On the next page, our brother John on the occasion of his Final Profession





