

## Holy Cross Retreat

### Letter 174



16th

June 2023

Greetings,

As they say “No News is Good News”. but I am breaking it to you that we do have some news once again for this week. I guess, we have to leave it to each individual to judge whether the news is good or not. Either way, welcome to a new weekend and the week ahead. We shall also leave it to you to guess which part of this Letter is edited by Brian and which by myself, Erick.

**See you 'later on' Ronny.**



Fr Ron Davoren CP currently a member of the Marrickville Community, travelled to Holy Cross to greet us last week. He then continued to Horsham to participate in the annual *Knights of the Southern Cross Golf Clubs* Tournament which runs for three days. Vin Malloy usually attends the competition. Ron says that this tournament has existed for over 60 years and he has been a part of it for nearly half of that. It was good of Ron to visit us and greet the Passionist brothers in the nursing homes and Brian Gleeson in Endeavour Hills. Thank you for visiting, and see you 'later on'!

### Double Good news for Br John Baptist Cao Anh Phi:



Not long after getting his licence, Phi was approved to take his final vows on 11<sup>th</sup> of August. Fr Tom our Provincial wrote. *“Phi will make his final profession in Vietnam with not only the three brothers (Danh, Vinh and TJ) but also with the novices who will be ready at that time to make their temporary profession”*

This is special news for Phi because he had taken an extra year of discernment for his final vows even though this decision meant that he had to witness his classmates progress to being professed and they will be ordained as deacons next week.

Phi chose the photo above when I asked him to choose one for the newsletter. I asked him why this photo and he said two things. (1) *It's the most recent one;* (2) *it shows my brothers in the background. Without my brothers, there would be no final vows”*. Congratulations Phi, we are eagerly waiting for the party time after your final profession.

### Look who just got a New Driver's License!



Fr JD Tan CP got a license yesterday at his first attempt as Phi did last week. He came back with a big smile. He then went to help pick up students from YTU and do shopping for dinner which he cooked. We congratulate JD for the great achievement! We also give thanks to Peter and Joe for their commitment to training our brothers to drive regardless of how dangerous that might be. Their beautiful wives Hellen and Angela too, are very

supportive in allowing them to do what they do. It is going to be quiet for a while now. Thank you, Peter and Hellen, Joe and Angela.

### Deacon John Chao Qi has more good news:



John who was at Holy Cross for several years as a student at YTU and left for China early this year, has informed us with joy that his priestly ordination will be on 21<sup>st</sup> September. We congratulate John in the hope that he will one day visit us and give us his first blessings while his hands still have the holy oils. Some of us were ordained too long ago, our hands have over-dried, needing a top-up from John.

### Come Away Day (CAD)

Thank you to the Come Away Team for making a special spiritual day last Tuesday.



Those who came truly appreciated the spiritual nourishment. There are two more Come Away Days to be held at Holy Cross in 2023: Wednesday 13 September and Tuesday 28 November.

We hope to see more of you join next time.



### Br Jerome Dunn CP is back in Action



Jerome has returned to his gardening after three months. He is feeling much better. The prayers must be working, thank you. Green bins are full now. He said, "Three hours per day is enough." We thank Jerome for contributing to making the centre grounds more beautiful for visitors and residents to come and be nourished by it. Jerome has done this for a long time, he must have missed it.

### Passionist Companions



The monthly gathering of Passionist Companions meets on June 21 from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Listen to a guest speaker, James Brown, as he shares his book *Living Well In the Presence of God*. All are welcome as we support each other in our love of the Passionist Charism. There will be time for a chat and a cuppa.

### 35 years in New Zealand





The first foundation of Passionists in Australia was in 1843. Four Italians made the journey to undertake a mission to aboriginals. For a number of reasons, the mission failed. The second Passionist foundation to Australia was made in 1887 and it was not long before they ventured to New Zealand. In 1900 Fr Francis Clune conducted a parish mission in Hamilton, sixty years before the Passionists would establish a community there.



Fr Seraphim McIvor, was the first Passionist to be ordained in Australia, in 1892. Two years later, in 1894 Seraphim was one of 121 lives that were lost when the steamer Wairarapa struck Miners Head, the north-west point of Great Barrier Island, 90 kilometres north-east of Auckland. Seraphim had been sent to engage in a series of parish missions with Fr Hilary Mara who had already arrived in Auckland. There is a plaque at Onepoto on Great Barrier Island to commemorate Seraphim, the only Passionist to be buried in New Zealand, although the exact location of his grave is unknown.

Throughout the ensuing years a number of Passionists from Holy Spirit Province worked in New Zealand giving retreats and missions. The English/Irish Province was then asked to take responsibility for a New Zealand foundation because of their experience and expertise conducting missions and retreats. They established a community and retreat house in Hamilton, on 26th June 1960, and during the opening address the Archbishop recalled that Passionists from Australia had been coming for sixty years to give missions and retreats. Records show that *“Benignus and Stephen gave their first Mission for the English Province at St Patrick’s, Auckland. Shortly afterwards Fr Eugene gave a mission in the Waikato”*. The first Mission to Maori was given by Fr Eugene at Pahia.



The Province took over responsibility for New Zealand in September 1966 so that now Holy Spirit Province included three entities, Australian, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Several men had joined the Passionists when it was part of the Anglo-Hibernian Province and studied in Australia. Most of those have now passed away.



The Retreat House in Hamilton was a principal ministry for the

Passionists in New Zealand from 1960 until 1988. Passionists from the local community in Hamilton or from other communities in Australia, conducted parish missions and retreats throughout the country during that time. A decision was taken to close the Hamilton community, and this took effect on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1988. In that same week the Passionist Family Group Movement was established in Paeroa on 29<sup>th</sup> June and East Coast Bays, on Auckland on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1988.

New Zealand has remained part of the Australasian, Holy Spirit Province and since 1988 over thirty professed Passionists have visited New Zealand to exercise various forms of ministry, especially leading parish missions and conducting youth retreats. The major Passionist ministry in New Zealand over this past thirty-five years has been PFG ministry. It has involved the ongoing (annual) formation of hundreds of group leaders, and more specialised formation for local Directors, Regional Co-ordinators and Parish Co-ordinators.



Within ten years, the Passionist Family Group Movement had been established in one hundred and seven parishes. Over 30,000 people were involved and one hundred and eighty were exercising leadership roles. The Movement has been strong in advocating lay leadership, and the absence of a residential Passionist community allowed this to be strengthened, so that throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand, there have been active lay leaders and strong small communities within local parishes.

The Passionists are not just celebrating thirty-five years of PFGM life in New Zealand this year. Our active presence goes back 123 years and includes the twenty-eight years when we had a residential presence in Hamilton. In 2002 the first two local Passionist Companion communities were formed and there are now four communities, and a large number of lay Passionists who have completed Institutes in Passionist spirituality. This is another way of keeping the Passionist charism alive Aotearoa.



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Last Saturday (June 10<sup>th</sup>) there was a celebration of 35 years since the PFGM was established in Paeroa parish. There was a reunion of many people that made the

occasion special. Some young children back in 1988 were able to bring their children to the celebration and nearly all of the original group leaders. Our former Paeroa based national coordinators (Lynn and Ron Hill) and the members of the national office were able to be present. We were blessed by the attendance too of a number of PFG members from other parishes who came to celebrate.

Fr Mark Field the parish priest was enthusiastically warm in his support of the PFG's. It was especially pleasing for me to be present because I conducted a mission in St Mary's Paeroa in



1979 and assisted with the setting up of the PFG's in June 1988. It also great to have my brother Paul present. He has supported the PFGM throughout New

Zealand for many years and is now National Coordinator of the Movement in Aotearoa.



This coming weekend East Coast

Bays parish celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of PFG's four days after Paeroa.

### Road cones



Sights like this were everywhere on our drive from Wellington to Paeroa. Much of this is the result of Cyclone Gabrielle which hit New Zealand hard in February this year and caused devastation throughout the North Island.



Sights like this near Napier show damage to railway lines and bridges which will take many many months to repair. There are slips, potholes 'men at work' and orange cones everywhere.

Roads are closed in some places requiring lengthy detours and there are many temporary 30kph and 50kph which adds considerable to travel time.

One of the big surprises was to come across this large serpent sliding up a rural road..



### Road cones

- **1m** estimated road cones in New Zealand
- **\$3.7m - \$4.7m** New Zealand cone sales annually
- **170,000 - 200,000** cones New Zealand needs annually
- In the past three years, Proline has recycled around **38 tonnes** of road cones

Before we go any further – the serpent is a joke!!!!

### Tim Bartells



We were very fortunate to catch up with Tim Bartells who now lives in Paeroa and is involved in large property development, especially retirement villages. When complete the village in Paeroa which is under construction will be 420 spacious villas set in 90 acres of prime land with picturesque views.

In his typically generous manner Tim is ensuring that residents have everything they need and more. He is a former Passionist student and classmate of Tim Horlock, who hails from nearby Putaruru where is also planning a retirement village. We greatly appreciated Tim's hospitality and are inspired by what he has done and is doing..



### Paul's churches and Passionist Family Groups (Part 4)

There is evidence in Paul's letters that his communities experienced divisions and threats of schisms. He says he heard of this happening in Corinth (1 Cor 11:18),



Rome (Rom 16:17-20) and Colossae (Col 2:16-19). Paul suggests that it is more often lack of care, rather than doctrinal or lifestyle differences that lead to schism. However, he is clear that if behaviour causes schism then the community should disassociate itself from the person involved.

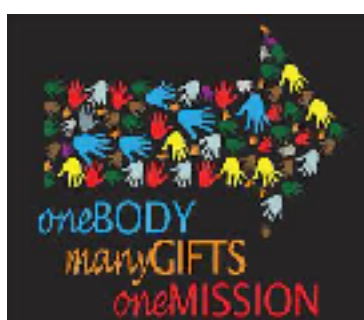
There have been occasions when Family Groups within a parish have experienced divisions. Even sometimes a strong personality such as a pastor or a Passionist Family Group Co-ordinator has wanted to break away from the wider Movement, refusing to accept some of the simple guidelines or the agreed arrangements.



On some occasions the behaviour of particular individuals has led to confrontation and a need to remind them of their communal responsibility. A common focus for these issues has been finance. In some parishes where money has been poured into the Catholic school system or into parish buildings, there is an unwillingness to finance the gathering of people into community and training people to sustain it. Paul experienced such obstacles too.

Some Passionist Family Groups do not hold an annual group Eucharist which is unfortunate, since this is when a small 'church' can truly celebrate its life. Understandably, there should be concern for the feelings of non-church goers or those of other traditions, but Paul's households were able to hold their common meals in a similar environment. Eucharist is not a church going action, it is a 'being church' action. It is one activity among others, that allows the Family Group to celebrate its meaning. Without a community Eucharist the deep connecting point can lessen commitment.

As with Paul's communities, the structure of meetings is left to the individual groups, and they vary greatly. There is a need for planning meetings, celebrations and family outdoor gatherings. Many group co-ordinators who would have preferred to discipline non-attenders or exclude them, have had to learn other methods. As Paul found, it is lack of care and courtesy that threatens the unity and harmony of a group and the issue of 'fringe' members needs to be addressed at some time by most Passionist Family Groups.



Paul mentions that there are a variety of gifts within the community. Some of them are directed towards a growth in understanding of God, of the community, outsiders,



and the world. The gifts of prophecy, teaching, exhortation, discernment of spirits and interpretation of God's word, involve having knowledge, but they also require practical action. Gifts directed towards social well-being, such as harmony of the group, he considers important. These pastorally oriented gifts, such as ordinary acts of kindness and assistance to people in need, help the psychological needs and social cohesion of the church. The physical welfare of the group, such as providing financial aid and healing, was also considered vital for the fellowship of the members.

These gifts encompass all aspects of life, because the individuals within the group are affected by the relationships, obligations and structures around them. The nature of Paul's churches obviously appeared to be quite secular or 'everyday' in as much as these gifts are 'ordinary'. Above all these gifts, the most important underlying principle for Paul, is love. He makes several references to this, He considered it essential that people be allowed to contribute their gifts, have a healthy sense of their abilities and allow these abilities to be assessed by others, because of the loving attitude of members towards the community.



Paul saw that where people exercised gifts without love, there was chaos, loss of understanding of one another, and derision from outsiders. This range of gifts and the attitudes towards their use, also apply within a Passionist Family Group and within the parish structure of the Movement. There are many gifted people who can begin to contribute their talents when encouraged to do so, in the smaller environment that a Family Group provides.



Those with gifts which require knowledge, also exercise these gifts in positive action. There are continual opportunities to assist the well-being of others through acts of kindness and concern. This builds the relationships within the group and the parish. While insisting upon equality at one level, Paul recognised legitimate national, social, cultural and sexual differences. This allowed for great diversity in his churches.

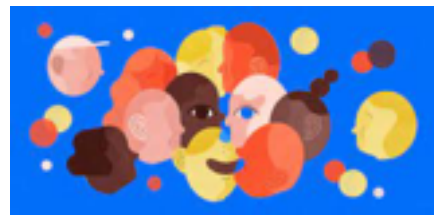


There was no distinction between priest and laity, since the cultic priesthood had disappeared, and priestly actions were recognised as any religious, apostolic or charitable activity. It was not until much later that separate role descriptions for laity and priest began to be used. Paul did not work with a

sacred/secular dichotomy. More and more we are coming to appreciate that this division of priest and laity is unhelpful. It has alienated many clergy from their people and exaggerated their gifts to the detriment of other gifts which the community needs.

With the exception of some pastoral letters, Paul did not address one person when he wrote. He addressed the whole community. He did not presume that only one part of the group had responsibility for the general organisation of things. He urged the members to look after each other's interests. He highlighted the members' responsibility for one another's welfare, even in disciplinary matters.

Passionist Family Group leaders are formed in this awareness. Members must see themselves as equal contributors, and those with leadership roles are called to promote a sense of responsibility for the life of the group with each person, as well as gently lead people to recognise the appropriate action they might take to respond to particular needs. When there is a need to address a serious matter, each member is entitled to contribute towards a solution. Of course while the group is still young and not properly bonded, such involvement will be hard to solicit, and care must be taken that the dominant members of the group, or the 'fixers', are not the only voices that are heard.



It is clear from Paul's letters that some people (e.g. Aquila and Priscilla (1 Cor 16:19); Dympha (Col 4:15) shared the workload or were more spiritually minded than others (Gal 6:1). Some laboured among the people (1 Th 5:12), gave aid or were called upon to admonish others. Apostles, prophets and teachers exercised significant ministries (1Cor12:28). Other people exercised 'lower' ministries such as administrators, healers and helpers. Paul suggested that those who preach the gospel should be paid for this work (1 Cor 9:14) and he reminded people of the debt they owed to the Jerusalem church and to himself for receiving the good news. Paul began his ministry as an assistant to Barnabas and then became the senior partner. After they separated, Paul chose Silas to work with him and later he recruited Timothy and others.



Paul was a part time missionary, working at his own trade to support himself and his co-workers. The number of his assistants who needed support grew in number, and at times when he was travelling or imprisoned he could

not work, so he was grateful for the assistance given him by some of the churches. It seems there were at least forty people who were actual or potential sponsors for his work whom he thanked for their generosity in his letters.

Other people from various churches, including women, travelled either occasionally or regularly with Paul and participated actively in his work. Among others, Paul mentions a character named Epaphroditus from Philippi who had been working with him in various places, and for whose ministry he was most grateful. Priscilla and Aquila were significant. They had been exiled from Rome by Claudius' decree in AD 49-50. Apparently, they were hosts to the infant church in Corinth and became itinerant co-workers among other churches. Paul says they risked their life for him and that he "and all the Gentile churches give thanks for them" (Rom 16:3-4). He mentions many others who helped him, and at times he asked the local churches to welcome his co-workers warmly and be willing to learn from them.



There are many parallels between these helpers and the Passionist Family Group helpers in Australia and New Zealand. Priscilla and Aquila can be paralleled to couples such as Mary and Leo Ingham and Barbara and Bob Lunnon from Terrey Hills, and Gwen and Russell Winterscheidt in Brisbane who covered many kilometres and assisted in many parishes over many years. Rob and Lynn Hill began their Family Group experience in Paeroa in 1988 and travelled all over New Zealand during a



twenty-five year period when they served as national directors.

Many other Directors and Regional Co-ordinators based in various parishes, as well as professed Passionists, have worked in different regions and been regular itinerant helpers, especially in the years when new parishes were being established.

**To be continued.....**

**Humour**



LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA.  
JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S  
IMPORTANT AND CAPTURE  
THE GOOD TIMES, DEVELOP  
FROM THE NEGATIVES AND  
IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT,  
JUST TAKE ANOTHER SHOT.

A wise doctor  
once wrote

*the more you  
in wine.*



**MOM IS GOING TO BE SO  
HAPPY WHEN SHE SEES  
THE GAS TANK FULL**

So, I was just  
wondering...

Does 3 glasses of  
wine and  
2 Bloody Marys  
equal 5 servings  
of fruits and  
vegetables?



"Please read ALL directions  
before assembling your cat"



My doctor said now that I'm older  
I need to install a bar in the shower



During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?" "Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

**Marriage:** "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury." -Groucho Marx.

**Good Sermons:** "The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible."- George Burns

## **22, nervous and self-doubting**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oy3wB3yE030>

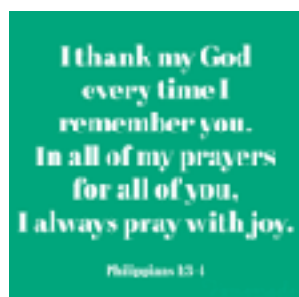
## **A different way of singing**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fERN0eje8i0>

## **Prayers**

We remember Salvatore Rao (father of Mirella) who passed away peacefully on Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>, and Joe Maggiore who passed away on June 4<sup>th</sup>. May they Rest In Peace.

We also remember those who's anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially [Carmel Coates \(18/6\)](#), [Irene Wilkins \(20/6\)](#) [Barry Mernagh \(23/6\)](#) and Maria Ryan.



We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Margaret Enriquez, Pam Storey, Maree Bartoli, Bronwyn Burke, Michael O'Callaghan, Lynda Chin, Gerry Bond, Cathy Petrocco's sister, Marissa, Peter Owen Alexander Lim, , Maeve Reardon, John Lazzari, Des Grisell, , Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Peter DeMarzi, Angelo Vigilante, Jim Monaghan, Patricia Keeghan, Marg Casey, Mary Hackett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Chris O'Toole, Anne Jenkins, Pam Gartland, Peter McNamara, Jerome, Mary and Kate Dunn, Fr Brian Gleeson CP, Fr Gerald Quinn CP.

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

Brian and Erick.