


Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 182

August 2023

Greetings,

11th 

Brian is currently in Saigon, Vietnam. Yesterday afternoon they had the final profession of



Phi, Peter, Vinh and TJ. We wait in anticipation for more news and see their photos. The photo below taken earlier this week, shows Brian, novices and Larry Fin, their Novice Master. At this point Phi was busy organising the profession with his brothers!

Tri enjoys a friendly game, a day after his birthday party



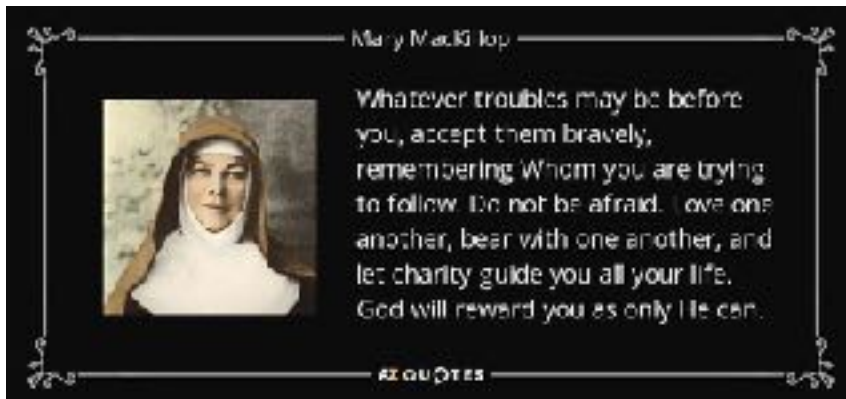
Last Saturday Tri had some friends over who joined the community to celebrate his birthday. There was a lot of laughter, food, but karaoke was the peak.



The following day in the afternoon was not a typical 'Rest Day'. The YTU soccer team had a friendly game with another Vietnamese soccer team. For over two hours they worked hard but in the end, YTU was defeated with a score of 8 v 10. The aim was also to have fun as you can see them together. The upcoming annual Brotherhood Cup is more than just competition, it is about brotherhood. This

was the first soccer game our new postulants attended since they arrived in July. They quite enjoyed the connection.

Mary McKillop's Feast Day was last Tuesday 8 August – below are some of her quotes



Spiritual nourishment, sourced through Chris Monaghan

Chris appreciates all the prayers and condolences about his dad who passed away peacefully. With my request, he has kindly shared some light spiritually nourishing materials below for us. Thank you, Chris.

Some thoughts on life and spirituality from Michael Leunig

“How else do we hear and make music, or know beauty or cry or play or grieve - except through our spirited spiritual self? How do we stay sufficiently sane in a mad world, except through our spiritual hearing and our spiritual gaze? How do we empathise and see compassionately into the suffering of humanity and self – or the suffering of the creatures and nature - except through our spirited spiritual heart? How else do we love? Spirituality is surely the breath and breathing of love in the world.

Any discussion of spirituality is bound to lead to, or include ideas about God.

Could it be that spirituality, art and innocence are some of our most important agencies of intelligence, liberation and wisdom? Might it be that a capacity for wonder; the capacity to remain open to all manner of possibilities – the possibilities of change, reconciliation and forgiveness, the peaceful integration of our opposites, the acceptance and love of the natural world, the redeeming capacity for love, beauty, joy and humour in a world grown

anxious and pessimistic – might these seemingly improbable qualities be the creative counterbalance to a lopsided world? I think so.” Michael Leunig 2015

Wisdom to heal the world



The Wee Dark Hours



A Winter Prayer

WINTER PRAYER

The little frog in joyful praise has croaked
The winter's quiet heavenly fog has come.
The paddocks and the bush are softly cloaked
In peaceful beautiful delirium.

Oh holy mist come to our heart and mind
Come gently to the troubles and the pains
Make soft the angry shapes that clash and grind
Make beautiful the scars and ugly stains.

Yet listen for the joyful frog, and thrill.
Look softly as the mist of love comes in.
Be still, forgive, adore with all your will,
And touch the softer, simpler world within.



Leung

Care is the Cure

HYMN

Care is the cure.
It is slow.
It is raw.
It is pure.
It is simple and bare.
It is real.
It is bold.
It is there.
Nothing is newer
Or older.
Or wiser.
Or truer.
Care is the cure.



Leung

Win battles or win people (sourced through Tri)

As I write the desperate need of the nation for its sporting teams to win has momentarily been sated. The Sam Kerrless Matildas thrashed Canada. But the Australian cricket and rugby union teams let their nation down by being defeated. Blame was duly and abundantly laid. Winning is the only thing that matters, it seems, and it matters hugely to the whole nation.

As in the ancient Roman games, to lose, to be a loser is not an acceptable option. In the beginning, the gladiator who lost his fight would be put to death. Later when very wealthy Romans sponsored the Games for political purposes and provided their own splendidly trained and armoured gladiators, the losers were generally spared. Today, however, the ritual punishment of losers continues. Like Madame Lafarge at the foot of the guillotine, reporters lie in wait to distribute blame for losses and to ensure that Coaches and Captains are duly humiliated and sacked. Their mission is to ensure that the playing of sport remains a

joyless, combative affair. Not a matter of life and death - as Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly told a reporter - but far, far more serious than that.

The vision of sport as a war in which winning alone matters extends to other areas of public life. The Referendum on the Voice is enacted as a battle between the Yes and the No side in which the task is not to unite the nation nor to elucidate the issues but to smash the opposition. International relationships too, are increasingly conceived as adversarial in which Australians and our neighbours must take sides. Reporters conceive of politics in the same way, representing the winning of elections as the only significant test of a party's and a leader's worth. A chain of bad poll results will see pressure for a change in leadership or policy. Every social and political issue is judged by its political effects. The agonistic approach to politics represented in the mainstream media is reflected in the viciousness of social media where vehemence supplies for reason.

The cult of winning is so pervasive that we might wonder how sport, politics and relationships could be seen in any other way than as a zero sum. To see them as play in which we enjoy the contest, give themselves fully to it, and afterward return happily to our daily lives, win or lose is seen as frivolous. It marks us out as amateurs in the professional world.

A more enduring and endearing understanding of winning, however, speaks powerfully to our culture. At its heart lies the desire, not to defeat other people, but to win them. We desire to make other people better by joining them in play, entertaining them, making them happy, persuading them, or attracting them. It is the gift of great athletes so to delight in their gifts that they are applauded by their opponents as well as by their teammates. They win people by offering a new sense of human possibility. Athletes win people even more strongly, however, by risking defeat in order to express higher human values. John Landy, for example, is remembered as a great runner. He is even more affectionately remembered for stopping to pick up an athlete who had fallen at the cost of forfeiting his own chance to set a world record. At a more pedestrian level, the English cricket team has won people to the game (including its own players) by playing the game for enjoyment whether they win or lose.

To win people as distinct from winning against them supposes that there is a wider horizon to any relationship. It requires sportspersons and their sponsors to recognise that every contest is play not war; that in every debate the truth is larger than anyone can articulate fully; that in every relationship the human beings involved are precious for who they are and not for what badge they bear, what skills they have, or what convictions they have; and that our personal identity is not fully defined or lost by the groups to whom we belong.

Winning conceived as conquest is heavy. Winning persons is light. That lightness lies at the heart of all the great religions. It supposes that there is a goodness, a truth and a beauty beyond the engagements of our daily lives and preoccupations, and that winning battles is not really significant. In the Christian Gospel, it is framed with a strong bias against responding to violence with violence. It leans against avarice and ambition and embraces an ideal of serving others as family and not as rivals or enemies.

The stories of Jesus' life embody this vision. He sends out disciples to win people with only the message they spoke as a resource. He discouraged rivalry and competition. The central image of God's engagement in Jesus with human beings is that of a man defeated in every sense of the word in being stripped of credibility, human likeness and life itself. But the love that showed itself in accepting defeat proved in Jesus' rising to be a victory. St Ignatius, whose feast this year coincided with an Ashes Test and the Women's Football World Cup, insisted that the a closest following of Jesus was found in humiliation, not in achievement.

That takes us beyond sport and politics into paradox. But a story told about St Ignatius was that he once agreed to play an acquaintance at billiards. We do not know who won the game, but the story survives because Ignatius won the person.

--- By Andrew Hamilton, 03 August 2023. Andrew is consulting editor of Eureka Street, and writer at Jesuit Social Services.

Humour and cute animals: This Sunday the Gospel is Jesus walking on the water

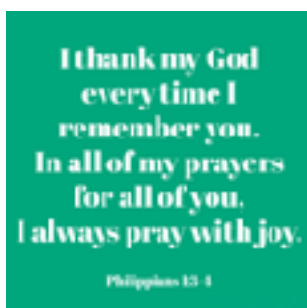




Prayers

We remember the recently deceased: Jim Monaghan, Chris' Dad who passed away on Monday at age 94, the vibrant Marg Casey who also died on Monday August 7th, John Lazzari, and Rosa Marina Rao.

We remember those whose anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially Fr Mark Nugent CP (11th August) Fr Jerome Crowe (14th August) Fr Dunstan Mellors (15th August), Jean O'Brien (wife of Tony) 12th August, and Jean O'Brien (12th August) John Whyte (15th August), Eileen Agnes (Babs) Cogle (mother of Dennis), Gwen Bartlett (mother of Helen Tome) and Mary Corboy (mother of Joan O'Callaghan) and Paolo Pinti (16th August), Alma Hall (18th August) and Rosemary Sandhanm (18th August), Giovanni and Marianna DePetro.



We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially, Gerry Bond, Pam Storey, Alexander Lim, Maree Bartoli, Des Grisell, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Lynda Chin, Peter Owen, Bronwyn Burke, Cathy Petrocco's sister Marissa, Phil Drew, Maeve Reardon, Michael O'Callaghan, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Errol Lovett, Angelo Vigilante, Chris O'Toole, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Peter McNamara, Patricia

Keeghan, , Mary Hackett, Anne Jenkins. Mary and Kate Dunn,
Brian Gleeson CP, Gerald Quinn CP

The **Mass link for this Sunday** will be sent by Chris.

Erick