

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 185

1st September, 2023

Greetings,

Spring

We welcome the season of hope. Already the sight of blossoms and green growth (including weeds) excites our hearts with the promise of renewed life.

Provincial Visitation

During the past week Denis Travers, our Provincial paid a welcome official fraternal visit to our two Melbourne communities. This annual visit allows the Provincial to meet with each religious individually and with the community members as a group, to encourage, support and offer appropriate advice. As Denis noted, there are a large number professed Passionists in Victoria. There are 13 at Holy Cross, 5 at Endeavour Hills including Brian Gleeson, Two more (Chris Mithen and Gerald Quinn) in nursing care at Nazareth House in Camberwell and Ed Braden in nursing care in Geelong.

Come Away Day....September 13th

The 'Come Away Days' program resumes at Holy Cross on **Wednesday 13 September**. The day provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and fellowship in the peaceful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. **All are welcome.**

BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The day concludes at 2pm with a celebration of the Eucharist. For further details contact Frank Burke – burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781.

Staying with Jesus who is always 'new'

(A reflection by Joseph Dominic Tan CP (a member of Holy Cross community))

I received and accepted the invitation to write an article for the YTU SRC Newsletter. I took it as an opportunity to share one of my stories rather than a research paper. My story for you this time is some fragments of my experience that I have been reflecting on lately.



Entering religious life, I encountered the idea of “come and see” (John 1:39). It was an invitation for the first two disciples of Jesus in the Gospel according to John. It was also an invitation for me who was wondering where Jesus was staying. In turn, I invite you to “come and see” as Philip said to Nathanael after staying with Jesus.

For the last seventeen years, I have come and seen where Jesus is staying. I realised that the invitation was not just only about taking a look but also staying with Jesus. Answering this invitation, I have remained with Jesus in the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, known as The Passionists.



Staying with Jesus through our dear Passionist brothers, I acknowledge that Jesus is always 'new' to me. He has new faces, characters, and lifestyles of our brothers who come from different countries in the world such as Australia, Argentina, India, Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Canada. They are all going out of their own countries, cultures and people, to come to a new place called Vietnam. In my turn, I also came to Australia and became a 'new' thing to my brothers who are Australians, Burundian-Australia, Vietnamese, and Indonesians.

Staying with Jesus through daily bible reading, I learn how Jesus lives and invites His followers to live like Him. It is always new and interesting to know Jesus bit by bit rather than one time for all. Lately, through the lens of trauma, I am encountering Jesus in a new and useful way of knowing Him a bit more. I know He wants to communicate with traumatised people by himself through different biblical stories. Staying with Jesus by spending time with Him, I know that Jesus is always with me.

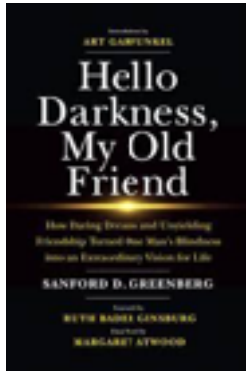
I can be with Him in our private time in my own room, in the chapel, or in the garden. He is always with me even though I am not aware of His presence. It is always a new encounter with Jesus where and when I do not expect. You may see in the photo which was taken in Royal National Park, I was so small and in a dangerous situation. I was, actually, at peace with Jesus, with my mates and with creation.



In the end, I believe that I may know something new about Jesus but Jesus is always the same. Jesus may be in a new place, a new experience, or He is new in different ways of encountering only. Therefore, it is better to know Jesus than to know about Him.

JD Tân T CP

Sandy and Art



Sandy Greenberg found himself sharing a room at Columbia University, New York with Art Garfunkel and they became close friends. Sandy came from a poor family and had won a scholarship. While playing in a baseball game 1960, at age 20, Sandy suddenly lost clear vision. He had developed a cataract that damaged his optic nerves and by mid 1961 he was blind. He suffered depression, dropped out of school and returned home.

Art Garfunkel persuaded Greenberg to come back to Columbia, and offered to be his reader. Garfunkel wrote “the darkness will accompany you and will be your light”. along with his girlfriend Sue (who became his wife) Art Garfunkel started to help him in every way he could. Two other friends Jerry Speyer, and Michael Mukasey also read textbooks to him, taking time out from their own studies, and Sandy scored straight A’s. However, he was still tentative about going out on his own.

One afternoon, Sandy and Art Garfunkel went ‘into town’. When it was time for Sandy to go back to campus, Garfunkel said he had an appointment and couldn’t accompany him. Sandy panicked. They argued, and Art walked off, leaving Sandy alone at Grand Central station. Sandy stumbled through the rush-hour crowd, took a shuttle to Times Square, transferred to a train, and got out at the correct station. At the gates, someone bumped into him. “Oops, excuse me, sir.” Greenberg knew the voice. It was Art. Sandy recognised that Art had made it possible for him to find his way back. He knew that Art had been with me the whole way.



“He changed all of his habits to help me out,” Sandy said of Art “He would take me out in the city, walk me to class, help me fix my tape recorder. Most importantly, he would read to me regularly. He’d walk into the room and say, ‘Sanford, Darkness is going to read to you from “The Iliad” today,’ or ‘Sanford, Darkness is going to read to you today.’ I suppose he meant that, for me, his voice was emerging from the darkness. Because he called himself Darkness, I decided that should be the title of the book I wrote”.

Sandy, the blind man graduated with a law degree, and followed it with a master's degree from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Oxford. He became a well-recognized attorney and became a Counsellor in the White House.



Sandy said that back in 1964, after we graduated and I had gone on to Oxford, I got a call from Arthur, who said he was dropping out of architecture school, which I was opposed to, but that was his decision,” Greenberg related. “He said, ‘I want to go into the music business with my friend Paul. But I need \$400.’ Before he finished, I told him he would have it. Sue and I had \$404 in our checking account and I sent it.” The two had made a pact back in their dorm room that if either ever needed help, “the other would come to his aid regardless of circumstance.”

Art Garfunkel and Paul Simon released an album on which was the song ‘The Sounds of Silence’. The backing in the song was modified. The new version topped the US charts in early 1966 and became one of the most performed songs of the 20th century. It was written in honour of Sandy and expresses the growing inability of people to communicate with each other.



The Sounds of Silence: <https://youtu.be/JVdeyypRVdc>

Father's Day



We send best wishes to all the Dad's associated with us, may you continue to be an example, a mentor, a man of wisdom, a good husband and may you appreciate that “the love you take is the love you make” (Paul McCartney). We also remember those who have lost Dad's in the past 12 months, especially, Chris.

Smart Dad: Your Mum says nothing rhymes with “orange.” And I said, “No, it doesn't!”

Elizabeth Prout (birthday on September 2nd)

(An edited reflection from Sr Brigid Murphy CP)



Elizabeth Prout brought light and hope many who were struggling in the darkness that prevailed at the time in Manchester, England. She has been called by some 'The Mother Teresa of Manchester'. She was a woman of great faith and courage. She suffered rejection by her parents for choosing to become a Catholic.

Elizabeth felt a strong call to respond to the conditions of poverty, poor housing and little or no education for children who were exploited as cheap labour. She met with shadows from within (including opposition from clergy) and without, but she remained steadfast in prayer and determination. Elizabeth can be an inspiration and a model for us now because she was a woman of passion, love and truth.. She was a sign of hope and her charism is still alive in those who are willing to take risks for truth, who are willing to be 'broken for the broken' and journey side by side in compassion with the wounded and those in need of healing.



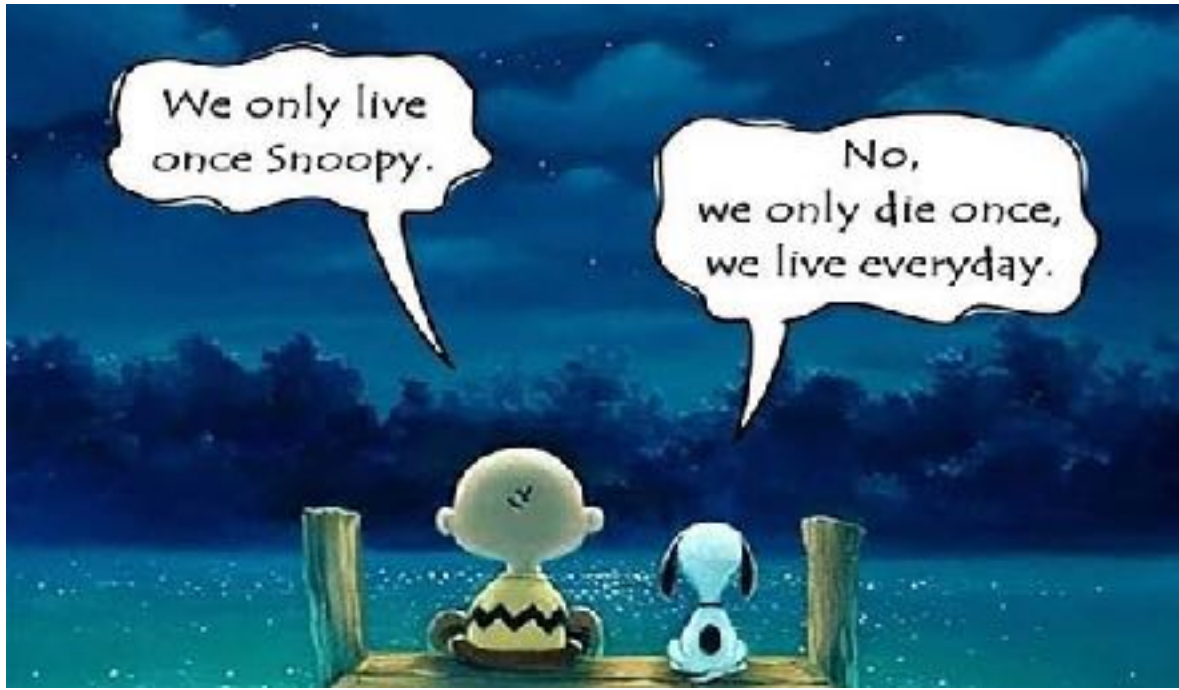
Elizabeth took risks and we might ask what risk she would take now as she looks at the world today? She would respond with newness and creativity to bring light into the darkness of all who are victims and survivors in our troubled times. She would bring a reflective, honest and practical approach to helping people to be true to themselves and to live with hope. She would challenge the Church too to be a community modelled on Jesus with care and concern for all, especially those on the margins. Elizabeth is an inspiration for our times, a woman of faith, a woman of integrity and a woman of prayer who challenges us to be people of the Gospel.



Listen to the beautiful song dedicated to Venerable Elizabeth, written by Liam Lawton: <https://www.crossandpassion.com/elizabeth-prout/>
And from the attached newsletter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3GKEg1fjVs>

The Cross and Passion sisters

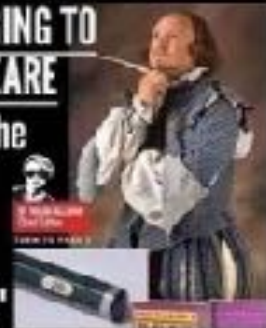
We, at Holy Cross are extremely grateful for the Cross and Passion sisters, especially Brigid and Karen (and Emily who will return to Vietnam on Monday 11th) for their contribution to our lives and for many who worship at Holy Cross, especially our Passionist Companions and those who attend our 'Come Away' days. Every week, Sr Brigid prepares the Prayers of Intercession for our recorded Mass and the 10.00am Mass. This is a great gift to us. See their attached 'September' newsletter.



ARCHEOLOGISTS UNCOVER CACHE

OF PENCILS BELONGING TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A spokesperson for the dig said: "They're so badly chewed at the ends, we can't tell if they're 2B or not 2B."



"No, we're not stopping. There's no rest for the wicked."

"Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said, "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week." "That's very fair, your honor," the husband said "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself!"



"It's only until spring."



I swear... I have no idea!



"NO, DEAR, YOU CANNOT GO OUTSIDE AND DO YOUR ANNUAL DANCE OF SPRING... REMEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN THE NEIGHBOURS CALLED THE POLICE?"



- Reading while sunbaking will make you well red!
- An old rake finds it hard to turn over a new leaf.
- What happens when pigs fly? Bacon goes up.
- Wearing extravagant glasses you make a spectacle of yourself
- Those who think they know everything, upset those of us who do
- A man was found dead with a knife in his back. Suicide is suspected
- Today is the tomorrow we spoke about yesterday
- It was a very emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers
- The recruit soon got sick of the army He found the drill boring
- The railways are going broke - too many chiefs; not enough engines
- Dad said to his son: "What are you, a man or a mouse? Squeak up

(With thanks to Frank Jordan RIP)



Athletics Victoria XCR 9: Burnley Half Marathon

This Sunday Erick will run in this ninth event of the season along the banks of the Yarra river. This will help Erick get ready for the full Melbourne marathon on October 15th.

Something you cannot explain

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=k7rXV0dvnaA>

Pam Story's birthday

We salute Pam as she adjusts to a very different life with strong and brave faith. Happy Birthday for Sunday, Pam.

Teresa

We wish Teresa Lim safe travelling as she heads of to China for John Qi's ordination on September 21st.

Provincial newsletter

For those wishing to be added to the weekly Provincial Newsletter mailing list, and quarterly Social Justice Newsletter please advise the Provincial Office at:

province.centre@passionists.com

Sister Mary Gerardine Agnew RSJ



Sr Gerardine's funeral was held in Goulburn last Wednesday, and although missionary co-workers, Jim Voucher and Jerome Dunn could not travel, the Passionists were well represented in acknowledging Gerardine's generous work in Vanimo, PNG over many years.

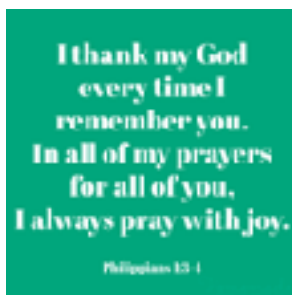
L to R: Joseph Doan CP, Bishop Pat Power, Kevin Hennessy CP, Paul

Kien CP, Sr Carmel RSJ, Ron Davoren CP, Joseph Liaia CP

Prayers

We remember those whose anniversaries are around this time and their families, especially Marj Hogan (1st Sept), Lauren Wright (2nd Sept), Bill Molinao (5th Sept) and Joan O'Loughlin (7th Sept)

Other prayers



We also remember those in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Gerry Bond, Alexander Lim, Pam Storey, Maree Bartoli, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Lynda Chin, Bronwyn Burke, Michael O'Callaghan, Maeve Reardon, Des Grisell, Peter Owen, Bernadette Own, Phil Drew, Helen McLean, Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Chris O'Toole, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Mary Hackett, Errol Lovett, Anne Jenkins. Mary and Kate Dunn, Brian Gleeson CP, Gerald Quinn CP

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

Brian