

Holy Cross Retreat
Letter 197



Greetings,

24^h November, 2023

Coffee Cart



Thanks to a generous benefactor, the coffee cart will be on gains this Sunday after Mass. This is an opportunity to stop for a while and say hello to a few people you may know by sight but have not met. Please join us.

Come Away Day

The Come Away Days programme meets for the final time this year on **Tuesday, 28th November**. The theme of the day is, **“Bring Forth Hope.”** The day’s program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the peaceful grounds of Holy Cross. Such days provide a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the Advent season and the gift of Christmas. You are invited to support the day financially according to your means, using \$25.00 per person as a guide. All are welcome. Registration is from 9.30am. The day concludes after lunch with a celebration of the Eucharist. For further details contact Frank Burke by email, burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or mobile 0407998781.

Graduation from Heart of Life

On Monday November 20th, Kevin Hennessy graduated as a pastoral supervisor having completed an 18 month part-time programme at the ‘Heart of Life’ Spirituality Centre. There was some rowdy calls when Kevin’s name was called to come forward to receive his certificate!

Paul Vuong, Mike Tuyen and Francis Xavier Tuan were awarded a certificate in spiritual direction at the same graduation ceremony following the completion of the two year part-time Siloam programme at ‘Heart of Life’. These men participated on line from Vietnam which required starting 3 or 4 hours (depending on daylight saving) before the 9.00am Melbourne time starting time. Unfortunately, only Paul Vuong could be present for the ceremony. Congratulations to these three men who are each serving as formators in Vietnam.

Coming up

November 25th Ed Braden’s 82nd birthday

November 27th Frank and Anne Burke are 53 years married on

Coming up

November 25th First day of Passionist Institute (10.50am-2.45pm)

November 26th Second day of Passionist Institute (1.25pm-5.30pm)



Passionist

INSTITUTE 2023

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25TH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH

PROGRAM

SATURDAY 25TH - 10.50 A.M - 2.45 P.M AEST
Gerard Daly - Welcome and Prayer
Denis Travers CP - Our 2023 Chapter - What it calls from us
Chat Room
Erick Niyiragira CP - Reflections from younger Passionists
Chat Room
Jim Yeo - What our Companions think
Chat Room
Gerard Daly - Closing Message
Drinks and BBQ at Holy Cross

SUNDAY 26TH - 1.25 P.M - 5.30 P.M AEST
Gerard Daly - Welcome
Endeavour Hills Companions - Prayer
Brian Traynor CP - Community and Connecting in our times
Chat Room
Tom McDonough CP - Cultural Challenges and Learning
Chat Room
Luke Bulley CP - Video presentation - Future directions
New Zealand Companions - Ritual
Gerard Daly - Farewell Message
Cross and Passion Sisters - Final Blessing
Drinks and BBQ at Holy Cross





For further information please contact Gerard Daly: gerard.daly23@bigpond.com

Holy Spirit Province 2023 Zoom Institute: 'Sailing together'



The theme of the 2023 Provincial Chapter was '**Setting the Sails**'. The Passionist Companions Leadership Group (PCLG) which has organised this Institute suggests we move forward now '**Sailing Together**', focusing on the message of inclusive community that is respectful of cultural diversity.

We are catering for 4 time zones with a total time difference of six hours. Each major presentation is brief (35 minutes) and it is followed by a shared discussion which everyone can participate in, by Zoom or in person.

You are welcome to participate by **Zoom** (the links are provided below in the timetable) either individually, or with a local Passionist community, friends or a local Passionist Companions group. The Institute will be hosted by Holy Cross.

Institute Prayer

God, compassionate and kind. You have called us to live as companions of the Crucified, for the crucified of the world. Call us again, to renew the memory of the Passion in our hearts, in our communities, among our companions and in our ministries.

In the richness of our diversity, may your Holy Spirit help us, to sail together as a family, listening sensitively to each other, and learning new ways, to bring others the consoling message of God's overwhelming love, that we ourselves, find in Jesus Crucified and Risen.



Institute programme: [AEST times](#)

Saturday November 25th: 'Sailing together'

10.50am: Login
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86918830664?
pwd=d2M3b3doQzR0RmRFUEUwekIITXV0Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86918830664?pwd=d2M3b3doQzR0RmRFUEUwekIITXV0Zz09)
Meeting ID: 869 1883 0664
Passcode: 108947

- 11.00am: Welcome & Opening Prayer: Gerard Daly
11.10pm: **Our 2023 Chapter....What it calls from us**
(Denis Travers) 35mns
11.45am: **Chat room:** (or local group sharing) 35mns
12.20pm: Break
12.40pm: **Reflections from younger professed CP's**
(Erick Niyiragira) 35mns
1.15pm: **Chat room:** (or local group sharing) 35mns
1.50pm: **What our Companions think?....Jim Yeo** 25mns
2.40pm: Closing Message (Gerard Daly)
2.45pm: Day One ends

Sunday November 26th: 'Sailing together'

1.25pm -5.30pm **AEST**

1.25pm: Log in
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84162335210?
pwd=MWVNWVZONUZlc2hwOTBZY3o1SDh1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84162335210?pwd=MWVNWVZONUZlc2hwOTBZY3o1SDh1dz09)
Meeting ID: 841 6233 5210
Passcode: 891639

- 1.30pm: Welcome (Gerard Daly)
1.35pm: Prayer (Endeavour Hills Companions)
1.45pm: **Community and Connecting in our times** 35mns
(Brian Traynor)
2.20pm: **Chat room:**(or local group sharing) 30mns
2.50pm: Break
3.15pm: **Cultural challenges & learning** 35mns
(Tom McDonough)
3.50pm: **Chat room:** (or local group sharing) 30mns
4.20pm: Break
4.40pm: **Video:** Future directions: **Random reflections**
(Luke Bulley) 15mns

- 4.55pm: **Ritual** – (New Zealand Companions)
5.10pm: **Farewell message** (Gerard Daly)
Final blessing: (Cross & Passion sisters)
5.25pm: **Finish**
BBQ



Slow life

Slow" marine animals show their secret life under high magnification and time lapses in this brief video. Corals and sponges build coral reefs and play crucial roles in the biosphere.

<https://vimeo.com/56012237>"

The Beauty of Pollination:

Pollination is vital to life on Earth, but is largely unseen by the human eye. This edited 4 minute clip shows shows how beautiful this transmission of life is.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=xHkq1edcbk4

Eggs



For those who collect eggs from Holy Cross, please note the cost of a tray of eggs has increased from \$13 to \$15.

Milestone



Peter Addicoat and myself were ordained with Terrey Lovat in 1973, after a thirteen month diaconate. Terry and I were ordained in Marrickville on November 24th and Peter a week later, on December 1st. At that time Bonaventure Thom and Stanislaus Cross were 51 years ordained and we could never have comprehended ourselves reaching that 50 year milestone. We were professed in February 1968 – 55 years ago. We are blessed that there are some many couples associated with Holy Cross who have been married for a similar period of time and even much longer. Your prayers for us is appreciated.

Homily for a priest

Some years ago in the United States, a group of seminarians were on retreat. They were due to be ordained deacons later in the year. As part of the retreat, the seminary rector arranged for the seminarians to undertake a three kilometre walk following a direct route, to a church in the city where they were to spend 30 minutes in prayer, before returning home the same way. They were asked to walk alone and not talk with one another until they had returned.

After they arrived home, the rector invited into the room where they were gathered, ten people, and he asked the seminarians if they recognised any of them. None of them did.

He then explained that he had asked these people to take up positions along the route the students took to the church and back. Some had been dressed as beggars. One had lay down on the pavement. Some asked for help. Not one of the students even stopped to acknowledge them!

After the helpers had left the room, much to the seminarian's surprise, the rector announced that their ordinations to diaconate were to be delayed four months. He said there was no point in them being ordained for service if they could not recognise or respond to people in need. More importantly, he did not want them to think that making a retreat or visiting a church was holy, but responding to people's needs was not!

The vocation of a Passionist priest is a response to a call from God. It is not a vocation that many people take up and it does carry serious responsibilities and duties, but it is not a superior vocation to anyone else's baptismal vocation. We each must listen to how God calls us. Perhaps it is best expressed in Jesus' words, "*To whom much is given, much is expected*" (Luke 12:48).

Sometimes people want to put a priest on a pedestal, but what good can a priest do up on a pedestal? All he can do is talk, and if he is talking from up there, he'll be talking down to people, not as equals and probably not about what they need to hear.

People need a priest who does not see himself as separated from above or superior to other people

They need a priest who recognises that God is the giver and source of his gifts and his calling.

They need a priest who is holy, not just because he prays, but because he loves people and wants to help them.

There is a Zen saying. *"I saw a holy man walking across the water. But then I saw a holier man building a bridge so others could cross"*

People need a priest who will understand their story, their struggles and their suffering.

They need a priest who will inspire and challenge them to live their life more faithfully and courageously.

They need a priest who preaches a message of compassion and the total mercy of God; not empty or nice words, but a belief that comes from his heart.

They need a priest who practices what he preaches

They need a priest who laughs

They need a priest who is moved to tears.

They need a priest who can draw people together, a peace-maker, a gentle reconciler.

They need a priest who is passionate about the message of Jesus and equally passionate in his own life and ministry to being like Jesus.

We heard Jesus' challenging words in today's gospel: *"If anyone wishes to come after me, they must deny themselves and take up their cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wishes to find life must be prepared to give it away."*

There is a story told about the famous musical composer Amadeus Mozart playing the piano at one of earliest concerts when he was a young boy. At the end of his recital he burst into tears as the people were madly applauding. When his father asked him why he was crying Mozart said, "They are only applauding for me; they were not listening to the music".

The priest is a messenger and should not get in the way of the message or see himself as more important than the message. It is important that people are not distracted from the message by the message-giver. The people should be led to listen to the song in his heart and the rhythm of the music he creates bringing healing hope, love, mercy and peace.

"Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you preach."
(From the rite of Ordination)



I just paid for a 12 month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen.

- When you dream in colour it's a pigment of your imagination.
- It doesn't make any sense, but volunteering is rewarding.
- James Bond has grey hair in his latest film - no time to dye.
- Tony married his wife for her looks, not the ones he's getting lately.

THIS IS HOW WE
PLAYED ON LINE



BEFORE THE INTERNET

I never thought
I'd be the kind of
person who'd
wake up early in
the morning to
exercise ...

And I was right.



Always warm
your hands before
milking your cow.

When Holy Cows Are Sent Out To "Pastor"



- Joe wanted to get my pants hemmed quickly, so he called Taylor Swift.
- I finally watched the documentary on clocks - it was about time.
- A tombstone with a typo? Well, that's a grave mistake.
- My wife and I can't count calories and we have the figures to prove it.
- I made a chicken salad last night- apparently they prefer grain.
- Taking steps to overcome my hiking addiction - I'm not out of the woods yet.
- Women's roofing Expo this weekend - all the shingle ladies will be there.
- My wife told me to put sauce on the shopping list; now I can't read anything.
- When the dentist married the manicurist, they fought tooth and nail.
- I have a black eye in karate.
- Bill thought his wife was putting glue on my firearms. He's sticking to my guns.
- The banana went to the doctor because it wasn't peeling well.

The older I get, the more I understand why roosters scream to start their day.

Still trying to get my head around the fact that “Take Out” can mean food, dating, or murder.

Cocaine is legal in Oregon USA, but straws aren’t. That must be frustrating.

Dear paranoid people who check behind their shower curtains for murderers, “If you do find one, what’s your plan?”

You know you’re over 50 when you have “upstairs ibuprofen” and “downstairs ibuprofen”.

How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life, when...the rabbit is always jumping but only lives for around two years, and...the turtle that doesn’t exercise at all lives over 200 years.

So, rest, chill, eat, drink, and enjoy life!

I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.

If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.

When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, “Possibly, but I wouldn’t count on it.”

Anyone who says their wedding was the best day of their life has clearly never had two candy bars fall down at once from a vending machine.

We live in a time where intelligent people are silenced so that stupid people won’t be offended.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren’t a robot.

Last night the internet stopped working, so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

For those of you that don’t want Alexa or Siri listening in on your conversation, they are making a male version...it doesn’t listen to anything.

Prayers

We pray those whose **anniversaries** are around this time and their families, especially:

[Helen Dennis](#) and [Damiano Facciolo](#) and [Marie Joan Scott](#) (Nov 25th)

[Paul Frood](#) (Nov 26th)

[Yvonne Maher](#) (Nov 28th)

[Barney Cogle](#) ([Dennis’ father](#)) and [Carole Mernagh](#) (Nov 30th)

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially Mary Dunn (Jerome's sister), Pam Storey, Peter McNamara, Alexander Lim, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Maree Bartoli, Maeve Reardon, Monica and Anthona Hennessy, Gerry Bond, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Des Grisell, Michael O'Callaghan, Greg Agosta, Angelo Vigilante, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Errol Lovett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Kate Dunn, Anne Jenkins, Chris O'Toole, Jeff Foale, Gerald Quinn CP



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

Brian