

Holy Cross Retreat

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28th February, 2025

Letter 264

Come Away Day



As we have notified for a few weeks, the first '**Come Away Day**' for 2025 will be held at Holy Cross on this Wednesday March 5th, which is the day the Church celebrates **WEDNESDAY**.

Attendees are invited to arrive and register via the front door, from 9.30am for a 10.00am start. The day will end by 3.00pm. Please BYO lunch.

The theme of the day is '**LET GO ... LET GOD**'.

St Gabriel's festa

The feast of St Gabriel is celebrated on February 27th, and with the customary hard work and planning of the local St Gabriel's Committee, Holy Cross celebrated the St Gabriel's festa last Sunday, with other devotional events that always precede the big day. To increase the attraction, an array of vintage cars were on display.



Unfortunately, I was away in Vietnam, and although the celebration went ahead, a deep sadness is that our friend Bruno Petrocco who has been the driving force



behind this annual celebration, suffered an injury on Saturday while helping with the set up for the big event, and while in typical fashion he soldiered on with the preparations and participated on the day, he required hospital treatment on Sunday afternoon. He has remained in hospital without visitors. He did suffer a head injury, and while brain scans were clear, he has remained heavily sedated this week. Bruno also has four broken ribs. Please keep him in your prayers.

Unfortunately the high winds very early on Sunday morning spoiled much of the hard work that had gone into setting up the marquees.



After the event, it was suggested we could enter 'the structure' below in an art competition. This 'structure' was more dangerous than it looks and we are most grateful to Adam Mattioli for arranging its removal on Wednesday morning.



Back to normal

YTU classes resumed this week, and that means the community has to adjust to some members having commitments at different times, especially evening classes. When we began the evening meal on Tuesday night, Erick acknowledged my return and commented that we haven't had everyone home for quite some time. Chris added, "with John at class tonight, we still don't have everyone here!"

Vietnam

The Province Formation Commission met in St Paul's, Saigon last weekend



The photo above was taken on a typically smoggy morning from the balcony of St Paul's, where we did have a most enjoyable evening BBQ on a clear Sunday night with the city lights on full display.



Two of the Commission members are not visible in this photo (Francis Xavier and myself). The photo shows from the left: Vuong, John Kleinsman, Pat McIndoe, Denis Travers, Pastor Mumburi, Sr Brigid and Kiet listening to Lien Thai.

The role of the Commission is to oversee and support the formation of all our candidates, professed members and Passionist laity.

The Passionists in Vietnam celebrate 20 years of presence this year and a great deal has been achieved in establishing communities (including the completion or ongoing completion of the necessary buildings) and attracting and guiding so many men through the formation process.

Eighteen Vietnamese men have been ordained priests. Phi will make that nineteen in two week's time, and Vinh (seen in the photo above) was ordained deacon last

year. Three students are finally professed. There are thirteen temporary professed students, six novices, four philosophy students and seven aspirants.



We gathered for dinner on Saturday night at the nearby St Gabriel's community. The photo shows (Back row) Vinh, Pat, John, Denis, Brigid, Brian, Toan, Pastor, Phuc and (front row) TJ, Vuong, Cau, Peter Danh, Lien and Vu.

Among the many challenges is the reality that we do not have the senior men in Vietnam that we have in our other Province formation communities (here at Holy Cross, in Boroko, PNG and in the Philippine's novitiate. Those we have asked to serve as formators are themselves young in terms of religious life and this is both a difficult and unfair task for them, because they would ideally be involved now in external ministry and bring that experience to their role in a few years time. They need our encouragement and support.

The Commission has to be attentive to the structures that will support healthy formation, so that our candidates are sufficiently developed as human persons, steeped in our charism, committed to community life, adequately qualified in theology and capable of serving as ministers in a challenging era of the church and the world.

Each candidate needs and deserves personal assistance from his formator, who are accompaniers, and we expect each candidate to take responsibility for his own vocation. Most of them are more than 25 years of age and some are in their mid 30's. We expect them to recognise and contribute what is required to live in community, since this is a fundamental aspect of our charism. We are not seeking high-achievers. Rather we are seeking well-rounded individuals who live in unity with compassion, forgiveness, joy and the other gospel values.

When it's all over



One of the things we try to highlight about a formation community, is that candidates should get to see Passionist life in action from the men who have been living it for many years. This is particularly important in Vietnam, where clericalism is strong. This can give rise to a sense of privilege.

My father gave us much valuable advice in the form of popular sayings. One of them was “Talk’s cheap”. Whatever the ideals of community life, they have to be put into practice, and no tasks are beneath us. After the day was done last Sunday, this photo away from the departed crowd at 4.15pm, shows Chris working at dismantling

the St Gabriel marquees that survived the high winds..

Ash Wednesday



There will be Mass and [blessing with the ashes](#) in the Holy Cross chapel at 9.30am

Ashes are the remains of destruction by fire so they are a powerful symbol. Ashes are also a symbol of the seasonal regeneration that follows burning. After bushfires tree trunks remain black. However, green gradually emerges from the ashes and sprout from blackened tree branches. In the forest, death yields to life. That is the whole point of Lent. Ashes do not have the last word. Life continues, regenerates, and spreads from the ashes. In the Christian story, the ash of sinful humanity reflects the love that leads God to share the ashes of our life, the humiliation of dying naked on a cross, and to rise green from the ashes. The ashes of Lent look forward to the green and spreading vine of Easter by which we are received into the joy of the kingdom of God.

Eggs

Monday March 10th is a public holiday, so the next delivery of eggs will be the following day, Tuesday March 11th.

William Shakespeare



Here is a list of a few phrases that appear in Shakespeare's plays and are commonly spoken today:

Shakespeare is credited with introducing 1700 words into the English language that are still in use today.

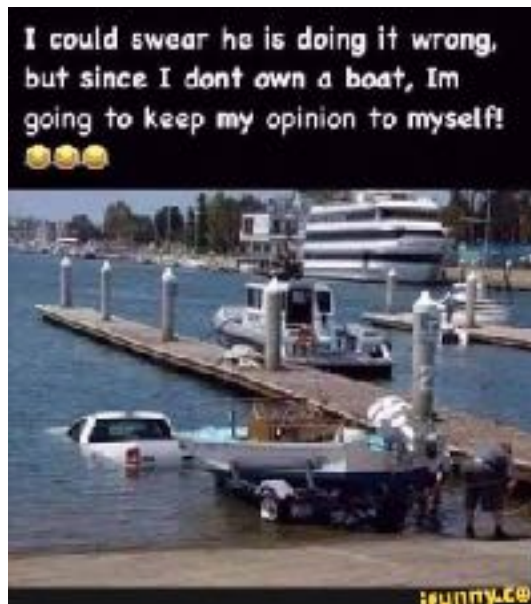
Uncomfortable, fashionable, manager and cold-blooded are examples.

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• "A wild goose chase" - *Romeo and Juliet*

- "I have been in such a pickle" - *The Tempest*
- "I must be cruel, only to be kind" - *Hamlet*
- "Laugh oneself into stitches" - *Twelfth Night*
- "For goodness' sake" - *Henry VIII*
- "Neither here nor there" – *Othello*
- "One fell swoop" - *Macbeth*
- "The be-all and the end-all" - *Macbeth*
- "Mum's the word" - *Henry VI, Part II*
- "All that glisters is not gold" – *The Merchant of Venice*
- "Eaten out of house and home" - *Henry IV, Part II*
- "Knock knock! Who's there?" - *Macbeth*
- "With bated breath" - *The Merchant of Venice*
- "In my heart of hearts" - *Hamlet*
- "Too much of a good thing" - *As You Like It*
- "It's Greek to me" – *Julius Caesar*
- "A heart of gold" - *Henry V*
- "Break the ice" – *The Taming of the Shrew*
- "Such stuff as dreams are made on" - *The Tempest*
- "Lie low" - *Much Ado About Nothing*
- "I will wear my heart upon my sleeve" - *Othello*
- "Made of sterner stuff" – *Julius Caesar*

- "Dead as a doornail" - *Henry VI, Part II*
- "Not slept one wink" - *Cymbeline*
- "Foregone conclusion" - *Othello*
- "The world's mine oyster" - *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
- "Naked truth" - *Love's Labour's Lost*
- "Faint-hearted" - *Henry VI, Part I*
- "Send him packing" - *Henry IV*
- "Melted into thin air" – *The Tempest*
- "Own flesh and blood" - *Hamlet*
- "Truth will out" - *The Merchant of Venice*
- "Give the devil his due" - *Henry IV, Part I*
- "Though this be madness, yet there is method in't" - *Hamlet*
- "Spotless reputation" - *Richard II*
- "All of a sudden" - *The Taming of the Shrew*
- "Come what, come may" – *Macbeth*
- "Neither rhyme nor reason" – *The Comedy of Errors*
- "Puking" - *As You Like It*.
- "Vanish into thin air" - *As You Like It*."
- "There's a method to my madness" - *Hamlet*"
- "Wild-geese chase" - *Hamlet*
- "Disappear without a trace – *Othello; The Tempest*
- "The green eyed-monster" – *Romeo and Juliet*
- "Break the ice"" - *Othello*
- "Wear my heart upon my sleeve"- *The Taming of the Shrew*
- "Swagger"- *King Lear; Henry IV;*
- "All of a sudden" - *The Taming of the Shrew*
- "A heart of gold" - *The Taming of the Shrew*
- "One fell swoop" – *Henry V*
- "Devil incarnate"- *Macbeth*
- "Stuff that dreams are made of" – *The Andronicus*
- "To come full circle" - *The Tempest*
- "In my heart of heart" - *King Lear*
- "Too much of a good thing" - *Hamlet*
- "All that glitters is not gold"- *The Merchant of Venice*
- "Good riddance" - *The Merchant of Venice*
- "Love is blind" – *Henry IV*
- "Knock knock! Who's there?"- *The Merchant of Venice*



Harry's wife took up gardening (see photo above right). He's wondering what she is going to plant!

LEXOPHILIA – Who creates these reflections? A lexophile of course!

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
 A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
 I used to be a banker, but I lost interest.
 Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
 England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
 I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
 They told me I had type -A blood, but it was a Typo.
 I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
 How does Moses explain he made tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
When cannibals ate a missionary they got a taste of religion
A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering
Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie
How do you get off a non-stop flight?
Why don't we ever see a headline "Psychic wins Lottery"?
Do twins ever realise that one of them was unplanned?

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were so chilly that they lit a fire in their craft. Not surprisingly it sank. Proving that you can't have you kayak and heat it too

The kids keep laughing about Gary's memory. They won't be laughing at Christmas when there are no eggs under the tree

Jim's granddaughter asked "if money does not grow on trees why do banks have branches?".

"Madam, when we asked everyone in the flight to turn off their devices, we didn't mean you to turn off your husband's pacemaker".

Replace W with T in What, Where and When, and get the answer to each of them!

Prayers

We remember those who have died recently as well as those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially **Peter Robson, Joe Stenta, John Whyte, Val Carrig, Maxine Vita, Rosa Vasarelli, Connie Costanzo**, and for those who grieve for them.

We pray for **Fr Jeff Foale CP** who has an appointment with a pain specialist this coming week. He has severe neck pain, managed at present with strong medication, and surgery is being considered. Jeff will be 92 in April, and he's very keen to get back to Vietnam.



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are unwell as well as all who care for them especially Bruno Petrocco, Kata Lenic, Bro Jerome, Michael Beuger, Rod Gorfine, Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Bro Minh Toan CP, Peter Barry, Pam Gartland, Rex Cambry, Monica Sleeman, Tony Brooks, Paul Darbyshire, Gerry Bond, Zoe Chung and her baby daughter Sophia, Carol Battistella, Alexander Lim, Doris Castro, Lorraine Gill, Michael

O'Callaghan,
Julia Cantone, Bronwyn Burke, Adrian Woon, Luke Norden, Bernadette Owen,
Peter Owen, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Caroline Meade, Patricia Keeghan,
Phil Drew, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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



Have a good week

Brian