

Holy Cross Retreat

Letter 338

7th August, 2026



Greetings,

Community news



Tri celebrated his birthday this week at St Gabriel's community, Endeavour Hills. We celebrated while he was still with us, and he got dressed up for the occasion as you can see from his shirt. We actually gave him a new tee shirt that had written on it: 'Tri is recharging....this may take a little time'.

Joseph took the photo. He helped out with two groups over last weekend with reconciliation and Mass.

Chris has one very challenging student in his class on 1 & 2 Corinthians, who is neuro-divergent, so Chris is seeking to find creative and artistic ways to help with this man's learning. Chris led the funeral for his 95 year old Uncle John, on Tuesday.

Erick had a setback to his travels to Africa. His young adopted brother Mugisha was not allowed to board the aircraft because he did not have a yellow fever certificate. Erick volunteered to stay behind with Mugisha, while the rest of the family flew to Burundi, where they are attending the wedding of one of Erick's sisters, on Saturday. This was a typically generous action of Erick's and necessary Erick thought for Mugisha's well-being, who had the necessary vaccination on Wednesday and is set to fly on Thursday. His new flight schedule was: Depart Adelaide at 9.00am on Tuesday and arrive in Singapore eight hours later at 5.10pm (3.10pm Melb). Then depart Singapore at 2.00am (4.00am Melb) on Wednesday and arrive in Ethiopia ten hours later at 3.00am local time and then fly to Burundi and arrive three hours later!

Jerome was surprised to learn on Sunday evening that he had 'missed Saturday' and hadn't been aware it was Sunday. He carried on regardless and made the most of the missed day.

JD attended a challenging session on Monday related to his studies on trauma.

I have had the privilege of leading a retreat for a priest this week, which will continue until Monday. There have been a series of meetings this week and just the odd one or two emails!

Technology must serve truth and the common good (Giovanni Zavatta)

Pope Leo XIV encourages communicators at a seminar in Chile to promote communication that, in "the face of the new opportunities offered by technological development, knows how to safeguard the dignity of the human person."



Pope Leo XIV has encouraged communicators to ensure that every technological tool is placed "at the service of truth and the common good," as the Church reflects on the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence. His message, signed by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, was sent to participants in the Seventh International Seminar on Church Communication, taking place on 27-28 July at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago.

The seminar, entitled *The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence*, brought together communicators, pastoral workers, academics and Church representatives from across Latin America and the Caribbean to reflect on the ethical, cultural and religious implications of artificial intelligence in light of Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical *Magnifica humanitas*.

Addressing Archbishop René Osvaldo Rebolledo Salinas, President of the Chilean Bishops' Conference, the Pope expresses the hope that participants will promote "a communication that, in the face of the new opportunities offered by technological development, knows how to safeguard the dignity of the human person and place every tool at the service of truth and the common good."



Pope Leo also entrusts the seminar to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, praying that its participants may address the challenges posed by artificial intelligence "with wisdom and responsibility, so that ecclesial communication may foster encounter among people and contribute to the proclamation of the Gospel."

Social media as human spaces

Opening the seminar, Cardinal Fernando Natalio Chomalí Garib, Archbishop of Santiago de Chile, reflected on the impact of social media, describing them as "truly human" spaces because they reflect emotions, relationships and conflicts. "Everything that happens to us also happens there," he said, proposing four essential criteria for communication: truth, goodness, beauty and usefulness.

In Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, on the challenges of artificial intelligence, the emphasis falls on the need to preserve human dignity in an age when truth is too often sacrificed at the algorithmic altar of immediacy and efficiency.

The Cardinal highlighted that *Magnifica humanitas*, dedicated to safeguarding the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, should not be read solely from a technological perspective. "Today there is much discussion about artificial intelligence," he noted, "but this Encyclical speaks above all about human dignity and truth." Cardinal Chomalí said communication rooted in those principles can strengthen community life in an increasingly individualistic society. "We will promote dialogue, we will promote fraternity; in the end, we will build Jerusalem, not Babel," he said.

The same themes were echoed in the homily he delivered during the Eucharistic celebration that followed. Describing *Magnifica humanitas* as a "Christological" Encyclical, he called for communication marked by discernment and expressed the hope that artificial intelligence would always remain at the service of human dignity.

Among the other speakers on the opening day were Juan Carlos de la Llera, Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, and Archbishop Rebolledo Salinas, who described the gathering as a concrete expression of synodality and of the Church's shared journey. He said the publication of *Magnifica humanitas* has given renewed depth to the Church's pastoral reflection on emerging technologies. "The inviolable dignity of the human person must constitute the principle, the criterion and the ultimate goal of both technological development and scientific progress," he said.



Philippines' internal migrants (Keiko Kurane – UCA News)



As his taxi crawled through the Friday evening traffic along Commonwealth Avenue, one of Manila's busiest thoroughfares, Ritchie Baltazar tightened his grip on the steering wheel. "Life is hard here, especially when I get homesick," he told UCA News. Eighteen years after leaving Mindanao in the southern Philippines, the 44-year-old still dreams of returning to the province where he grew up. "I just think of going back to my province and being with my father," he said. "I don't think you ever stop missing the place where you grew up."



For more than 12 hours that day, Baltazar had been driving passengers across Manila, hoping to earn enough to cover the taxi's daily fixed rental fee of 800 pesos (about US\$13), pay his apartment rent and utility bills, and send whatever remained to his family. "I came here to find a job because I wanted to help my father," he said. Like millions of Filipinos who migrate within the country, Baltazar left home believing the capital offered opportunities unavailable in his province. Instead, he encountered hardship and unsteady income.

His first job was in construction. Days later, after workers were laid off, he found himself without work and sleeping outside St. Peter Church in Commonwealth Avenue. During that difficult period, he turned to prayer. "I prayed really hard that day," he recalled. "I held on to God to overcome that difficult time and to give me the strength and courage to continue." Eventually, he found work as a driver.

Baltazar now rents a small apartment. Despite working long hours, he said there are days when little is left after paying his expenses. Still, he considers being able to help his father one of the reasons his years in Manila have been worthwhile. The amount he sends is sometimes small and not always enough, but he is grateful that he can provide support, especially now that his father is old and dealing with illness.



"Sometimes I get frustrated because I don't have extra money to send to my father," he said.

Baltazar's experience reflects the reality of many Filipinos who move from one part of the country to another in search of work and better opportunities. Every day, taxi drivers, vendors, security guards, construction workers and domestic helpers move through Manila, trying to build a better life away from the places they once called home.



Several kilometres away, Cristina Aragon was beginning her workday before sunrise. For the past 14 years, the 34-year-old fruit vendor has earned a living on the streets of Manila. Originally from Pangasinan province in northern Luzon, Aragon first arrived in the capital at age 14 to live with an aunt and help care for her

children. She was unable to continue her education after elementary school. Now married with eight children, Aragon said every day's earnings are carefully stretched

to cover rent, food and the loan she took out to start her small business. “We borrowed money from a lender to start selling fruits.



We have to pay 600 pesos [about US\$10] every day,” she told UCA News. She said leaving her parents at such a young age was the hardest part of coming to the city. “I was still young when I was separated from my parents. That was the most painful part for me,” she said. Working as a sidewalk vendor also comes with uncertainty. “When authorities come to apprehend vendors, we hide. Before, they would take our goods and not return them. Now they only issue violation tickets,” she said.

Despite the hardships, Aragon said she would make the same decision again. Like many parents, she hopes her children will have opportunities she never had.

Although she was unable to continue her own education, she and her husband want their children to finish school and have more choices in life. “You just need hard work and perseverance,” she said. Baltazar and Aragon’s stories reflect a broader pattern of internal migration in the Philippines especially to Manila, believed to be the country’s financial and educational centre where economic opportunity abounds.”



According to the 2018 National Migration Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority and the University of the Philippines Population Institute, employment is the leading reason Filipinos move within the country, followed by housing, education and living with family members. But the search for opportunities often comes with new challenges.



“Most internal migrants to Manila are faced with housing needs. If they cannot be accommodated by relatives or friends, they may end up in informal settlements since housing rental in some neighbourhoods can exceed monthly per capita income,” Ogena said. She added that even migrants with college degrees and skills often struggle to find stable employment because of intense competition, forcing many into low-paying informal or elementary occupations.

Some 29,870,00 million Filipinos, or 30.6% of the Philippine population, were classified as “lifetime migrants” in the 2020 census, meaning they were living in a

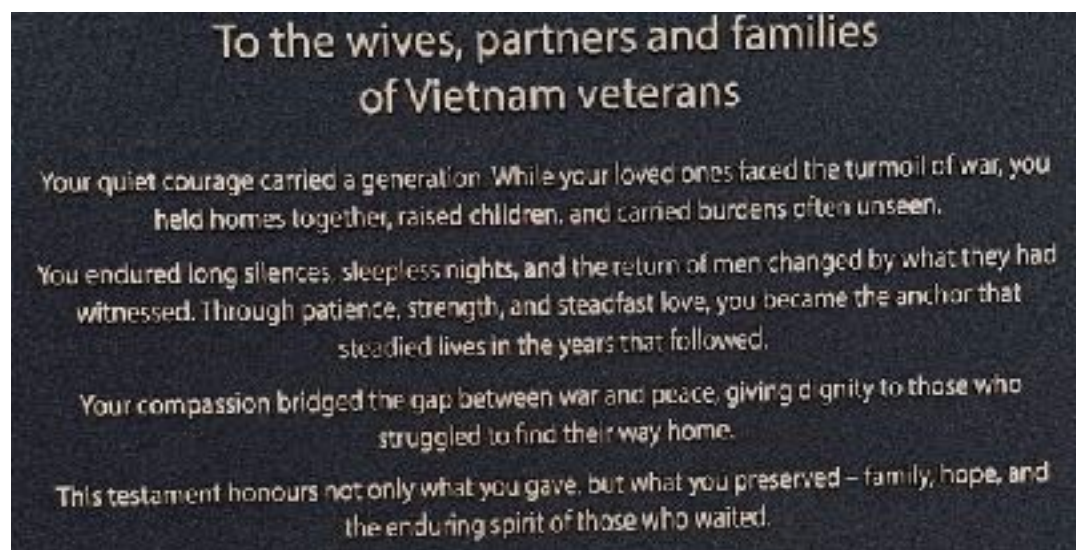
place different from where they were born. After nearly two decades in Manila, Baltazar still feels the cost of being away from home. “I miss my father. I missed many of his birthdays and Christmases with him. I think that’s the price of trying to earn a better living,” he said.



Aragon measures a better life in simpler ways. “We are already happy if we can pay our rent, have enough for our daily needs and repay our loan,” she said. As darkness settled over Commonwealth Avenue, Baltazar accepted another passenger, while Aragon waited beside her display of mangoes and bunches of bananas for another customer to stop.

Across the Philippines, millions of people like them continue to move within their own country, one sending support to an elderly parent, another working each day to provide for her children.

Plaque in Carberry Park, Gundagai



Flooding and its effects in India and Pakistan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZTu2vZiBww>

Mary McKillop Feast Day...Saturday August 8th

Guided tour of Museum at 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne

10.30am-11.00am and 11.00am-11.30am

11.30am Mass

12.30pm-1.00pm: Simple lunch

1.30pm-2.30pm: Movie 'Glorious Lives – Mary McKillop'

2.30pm-3.00pm: Guided tour of Museum

Table going

We have an 8 seater wooden table and chairs that might be suitable for an outdoor under-cover BBQ area for a young family. Please contact Mayrose during office hours (98466014) if you are interested.

Iconic photo

"Lunch Atop a Skyscraper" is an iconic photograph taken on the 69th floor of the Rockefeller Centre in Manhattan, New York, in September 1932. The photo depicts 11 construction workers casually enjoying their lunch break on a steel beam 260 metres above the streets of New York. The photo was staged for publicity because sale of the office space was slow.



Sydney

The Sydney Harbour Bridge opened in 1932. Photos of that time show workers had ordinary hats and few harnesses or safety protection.



Telescope

If anyone is able to loan us a telescope and stand for the week Monday 7th-Thursday 10th September, could you let me know, please?

Reflections



Humour

Blunt pencils are pointless.
 I doubt, therefore I might be.
 The rotation of the Earth makes my day.
 Did Noah include termites on the ark?
 To be Frank, I'd have to change my name.
 Keep the dream alive. Hit the snooze button.
 6:30 is the best time on a clock, hands down.
 Which shoes do frogs prefer? Open toad sandals.
 Why do bees hum? They can't remember the lyrics!
 If you don't pay my exorcist, will I get repossessed?
 The cost of living might be high but it remains popular.
 You can add insult to injury by signing somebody's cast.
 If everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 I failed my art exam by using the wrong pencil. It wasn't 2B.
 I used to have an hourglass figure, but the sand has shifted.
 The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it is on my to-do list.
 The Man Who Created Autocorrect Has Died. Restaurant In Peace.
 Should women have children after 35? No, 35 children are enough!
 You think you've got a handle on life and then you realise it's broken.
 The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.
 Adam and Eve were the first to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.

In a "Mental Hospital" of 38 patient's, a journalist asks the Doctor: _How do you determine whether to admit a mental patient or not to?

Dr: "Well, we fill a bathtub with water and then give the patient a teaspoon, a glass and a bucket, and ask them to empty the bathtub"

Journalist: "Obviously a normal person would use the bucket because its bigger"

Dr: "No, a normal person would pull out plug! Please go to bed No.39. We will start further investigations on you, shortly!"

..... You also thought of the bucket, didn't you? Please go to bed No. 40!

Insurance clerk: Where were you born, sir?

Man: In the United States Insurance clerk:

Clerk: Ok, which part?

Man: My entire body.

I went to the toy store and asked the assistant where the Schwarzenegger dolls were and he replied, "Aisle B, back".

An employee complained to his boss that his salary didn't even remotely match the effort he put into his work. The boss nodded and said, "I know, but we can't let you starve to death."

An older man was driving home from work when his wife rand him and said says in a concerned voice, "Honey, please be careful. There was an item on the news just now, about some lunatic is driving the wrong way down the highway". "Oh it's worse than that", he replied, "there are hundreds of them."

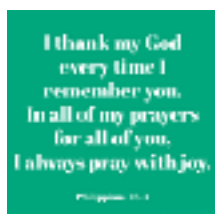
What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture yourself.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

Jack threw a dart at a map of the world and promised to go wherever it landed. He had a very quiet two weeks sitting next to the skirting board!

Prayers



We remember that those who have died recently especially We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: [Jim Monaghan \(Chris' dad\)](#), [John Lazzari](#), [Marg Casey](#), [Mark Nugent CP](#), [Vianney Carey CP](#), [Jean O'Brien \(Tony's wife\)](#), [Jean Sloan \(Jan Conti's mother\)](#), [Phyllis Vial](#), [Marissa Martin \(Cathy Petrocco's sister\)](#)

We pray too for members of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness including many not listed here, and all who care for them: We remember...

Marie Spowart, Kathy Shady, Doris Castro, Stephen Cogle, Paul Fitzgerald, Nada Atme, Dr Peter Heffernan, Pam Storey, Chris Mithen CP, David Chai, Lucia Isgro, Kate Lenic, Nina Conti, Carol Battistella, Max McMahon, Greg Turney, Beth Scott, Jan Cambrey, Fr. Brendan Lane, Edward Atme, Lisa Iverach, Phil Drew, Bernadette Owen, Rod Gorfine, Anne Woon, Luke Norden, Jeanelle Bergin, Denise Egan, Bob Hallam, Nicki Di Giantomasso, Caroline Hagedorn, Maureen Barns, Alexander Lim, Marilyn Cilmi, Nancy Reynolds, Caroline Meade, Julia Cantone, Patricia Keeghan, Graham Burke, Pam Gartland, Peter Barry, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Frank Conti, Helen McLean.



Chris will record this Sunday's Mass early and he will send the link.

Brian