



# ***Holy Cross Passionist Family***

## ***Newsletter.***



**OCTOBER 2015**

**Volume 21, Issue 9**

### **Feast of Saint Paul of the Cross – October 19<sup>th</sup> - by Fr Kevin Hennessy CP.**

St. Paul of the Cross, the Founder of the Passionists, was a young Italian who had a Passion for Life. Paul came from a large family that was surrounded by suffering; he was the second of 16 children, 6 of whom survived infancy. His mother had great devotion to the suffering Jesus on the Cross that gave her the strength to endure the challenges she faced in losing so many children.

I could tell you the story of this man Paul of the Cross but you can read about that with interest on any of the Passionists' Websites. Some of our men are travelling to Rome for a world gathering of Passionists about living out our Charism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; this is important as we continually renew and find how the Message of Jesus is to be made a reality in today's world. The story of God is changing and **Fr Brian Traynor CP** has been conducting seminars in Australia and NZ on the changing Story of God in history. Also, **Fr Chris Monaghan CP**, but as Brian says it is really Chris who has been for two years putting the God story in the Scriptures into context of the time. Attitudes, myths stories of God that have been passed down through the oral traditions; stories that have been written within the cultural context of times before and after Jesus. A number of you who are associated with Holy Cross have participated in these classes or reflective experiences. Thank God for the creative men I live with who are followers of St. Paul of the Cross and that is the story I need to tell.

At the moment we have fifteen men living at Holy Cross and there are two Passionist Sisters who live at Endeavour Hills but work in our Centre to help me with gaining more men into the Passionists' story in the Province of the Holy Spirit. As you know from the banners in our chapel and around the Centre of Holy Cross, the Province comprises four countries: **Vietnam, Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand**. It is in today's world that St. Paul's men have to face the challenges of the problems of our times. We have to be present in ways that we can with the poor, the outcasts, the spiritually lost. They are big questions for the men and women, the followers of St. Paul of the Cross.

We have in our Holy Cross community, one young man discerning if he is called to be a professed member and three who are in vows and will at the beginning of 2016 take their final vows; also two from Vietnam learning English who are our first two men of that country who are in final vows. Another 40 will follow them in the coming years. We also have a Deacon from Mexico, **Manuel CP** who is determined to learn English for his studies, although when he returns to work with the marginalised in South America, he will speak in Spanish. The Provincial of the Passionists in South Korea, **Fr Sugan CP** also learning English to communicate with the Passionist Region of Asia and Pacific. We all know of the suffering story of Korea and what courage it has taken over the years to be Catholic in the face of a hostile neighbor, North Korea.

**Br Erick CP** will be ordained a Deacon on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. He will begin his journey towards priesthood in ministry in our Parish of St. Brigids, Marrickville where he will work in a multicultural Parish in the inner suburb of Sydney, creating positive experiences and I am sure, challenges. Erick as you know is gifted as a follower of Paul of the Cross as are all our young men.

Of course there are the oldies in me Kevin, **Tim, Jerome** and the others already mentioned. Currently, Jerome is working in Papua New Guinea at the youthful age of 76! He is there for five weeks helping in a growing but difficult part of our mission. Of course there are many others who follow St. Paul of the Cross' Spirituality, the Companions, the Helpers at Holy Cross and you the supporters of the Passionists. We are having a celebratory **Mass on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** and you are welcome to join us for Mass and a supper.

I cannot let this moment go without speaking again about people who have supported the Passionists, as did many in the time of Saint Paul of The Cross. There are those who have supported us financially, also the volunteers who work in and around our home, and all who say they just feel they are accepted in prayer in our home, HOLY CROSS! Added to these, are the many suffering with serious illnesses, either personally or in their families, and they come to Holy Cross where they find peace and support.

Finally, I have to mention two men who have inspired and supported us who have been taken by God to Heaven. Tony O'Brien was one of our collectors at Mass (I call them God's Tax Collectors) and benefactor. His memorial service was at our place led by Chris Monaghan as Tony died in Paris; also Kevin Lee with whom I enjoyed a scotch or two after anointing him in his home. He loved Holy Cross and financially supported us over a number of years. His wife Lynette and family asked me to lead his funeral Mass last week. Both funerals filled with people who loved these men. They called Holy Cross, the Home of the followers of St Paul of the Cross, their Spiritual home.

THAT IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT ON THE FEAST OF PAUL OF THE CROSS MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AT AND BRINGING THEM HOME TO THE GOD WHO LOVES US ALL.

HAPPY FEAST DAY TO YOU ALL – **Fr. KEVIN HENNESSY CP** (PRIVILEGED TO BE THE LEADER OF HOLY CROSS)

# **Popular Opera, Songs from the Musicals, 50s/60s Rock & Roll**

## **Fundraiser for the Passionists:**

**St Gemma Care Centre ( Senta Bilong Helpim) PNG**

*and*

**Francis Shelter – Vietnam.**

### **HOLY CROSS CHAPEL**

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.  
2.30pm.**

**The Holy Cross Community Artists  
Present a Variety Concert:**

*Popular Opera.  
Songs from Musicals.  
50s and 60s Rock & Roll.*

Featuring:

*Lorena Stipani.  
Peter Cahill.  
Stan Azzopardi.*

Please come to Holy Cross on the 11<sup>th</sup> to support this worthy cause and help the young and disabled who are cared for at the Passionists' Senta Bilong Helpim in PNG and Francis Shelter in Vietnam.

Admission is by Donation, say \$10 or more.

After the Concert, you are invited to stay for afternoon tea in the dining room – and to buy some raffle tickets!

For seating and catering purposes, please phone Maree at Holy Cross (03 9846 6014) to confirm your attendance. Thanks.

Postage for this month's Newsletter  
was kindly provided by:

**Paul & Natalie Pezzin.**

Many thanks, Paul & Natalie.

### **'Come Away' Retreat Days:**

Wednesday **OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>**  
9.30am to 2.45pm

*then*

Tuesday **NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>** (Final for 2015)

Commence with a cuppa at 9.30am  
and conclude at 2.45pm following  
the celebration of the Eucharist.

### **Vatican Synod on the Family.**

Our Passionist Provincial, **Fr Tom McDonough CP** will be in Rome later in the month for the Synod and recently made the following announcement:

*"With the coming Synod on the Family in Rome just around the corner, it was wonderful to hear that **John Kleinsman** of New Zealand has been chosen by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as a nominated expert (Auditor) to attend.*

*John and Kerry and their family have been significant members of our Passionist Family Groups in NZ, a member for almost 15 years of our Province Formation Commission and President of the New Zealand Nathaniel Centre for Bio-Ethics. It is a great honour for John and fantastic news for us, his Passionist family."*

Apart from the bishops, prelates and priests from around the world that normally attend such conferences in the Vatican, **Pope Francis** appointed 45 members to the Synod on his own authority, selecting a diverse group of prelates from Europe, Africa, and even the island nation of Tonga.

In the absence of Fr Tom in Rome, Fr Kevin Hennessy CP will be acting Provincial. Currently, Fr Brian Traynor CP is in Rome attending a meeting of the Passionist International Formation Commission.

## **INDIA – from our foreign correspondent: *Fr Denis Travers CP.* (Part 2)**

*(continued from September Newsletter)*

The three girls in lovely, colourful costumes were moving in synchronised steps and dancing to traditional music with great concentration, giving meaning to every gesture and step. This was the first formal item on our concert program (specially arranged for our visit) and was in fact no mere dance – rather it was a prayer to begin the assembly and concert therein. The dance was simply called ‘the prayer dance’ and had its origins in the Hindu tradition of faith. Given that the dance lasted some five to six minutes and involved many and varied steps, I could only admire the dedication of the girls.

This prayer dance was quickly followed by some speeches of welcome and was then followed by a traditional dance and a play based on the life of India’s recently deceased former President Abdul Kalam .

Perhaps the most amazing moment was when a group of children from the infant grades performed a ‘Bollywood’ style dance to bring our concert to a close – and little as they were they were great!

We were in the Tamil Nadu State of India and the concert was in honour of our visit to see the school. Here in Randham (about 260 kms from Bangalore) in one of the poorest areas of the State the Passionists have built a Kinder – Year 12 School for the local children. For us and our benefactors this has been a major project with a clear social goal – to give the children of this otherwise poor, rural area a real stepping-stone in life. I say 'social goal' quite deliberately because only twenty five of the seven hundred and fifty six children are Catholics. There are a further twenty seven children who come from the protestant churches, four students who are of the Muslim faith and seven hundred Hindu children. The faith of each child is respected and apart from all common educational or cultural subjects each child receives religious instruction according to their own faith tradition.

Parents are asked to pay something to the school and although there are many families with fee concessions and families who cannot pay, in fact the school gets by. Because of lack of transport systems in the area the school itself operates ten buses that bring children to and from the surrounding villages each day. It is quite a sight to see ten yellow buses with the school’s name – St Gemma’s - lined up all through the day waiting for the afternoon departure. Thus apart from the twenty seven teachers an additional ten bus drivers must be employed. The Government pays the salary of one teacher while all other expenses are ours to meet.

**The school employs  
... 27 teachers ... 10  
bus drivers ... Five  
of our men work at  
the school.**

While Tamil is one of the official languages of India, and most families in the area do in fact speak this at home, the school lessons are taught in English. Every child must wear an official identity pass at all times (a legal requirement) and every teacher wears a coloured sari to indicate not only her position but whether she teaches in the primary or secondary section of the school

Five of our men work here for this school, and of course to hold official positions on staff they must qualify with educational degrees as well as their theological degree. The school is some ten minutes’ walk from our community residence which is built opposite the small parish church of the district.

A feature of life in such agricultural areas of India is the early start to the day for the people. One will see them walking off into the fields at very early hours and in fact our church bell tolls at 5am to waken people for their work day. Consequently most are walking home again at around 3pm or so and Mass each day in the church is held in the evening. If it were a morning Mass hardly a soul would attend, but a 6pm evening Mass can accommodate good crowds since people have rested from the day’s labour and it is cooler as well.

The 520km round trip to the mission takes one past palm groves, green open fields, a small mountain range and surprisingly for me the occasional eucalyptus forest!

Till next time, your foreign correspondent,

***Denis CP.***

## **Celebrating October:**

**Feast Day**  
**19<sup>th</sup> October.**

**St Paul of the Cross**  
**Paul Francis Danei**  
1694 – 1775



**Founder of the Passionists.**

Celebrations for the Feast Day of **Saint Paul of the Cross** – (October 19<sup>th</sup>) – will include a special Mass at **Holy Cross** on **Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** when *we are all invited* to join the Passionist Communities and the Passionist Companions of **Holy Cross** and **St Paul the Apostle Church, Endeavour Hills** – **7.30pm**, followed by a Supper.

**YES! *We are all invited:*** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm.

(**Note:** To assist with the catering for the Supper, we are asked to confirm our attendance; please phone the Office: 9846 6014, or the Monastery, 9846 1622.)

*“Give yourself the rest you need. When you are walking alone, listen to the sermon preached to you by the flowers, the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the sun and whole world. Notice how they preach to you a sermon of love, of praise of God, and how they invite you to proclaim the greatness of the one who has given them being.”*

- St Paul of the Cross.

**OCTOBER 19** is also the anniversary of the Beatification of **Mother Teresa of Calcutta** by Pope John Paul II.

### ***Passionists' Birthdays in October:***

**7<sup>th</sup> Fr Ray Brain CP** - London  
**16<sup>th</sup> Fr Chris Monaghan CP** - Templestowe  
**20<sup>th</sup> Fr David Wilkie CP** - Hobart  
**20<sup>th</sup> Fr Jacob Kuman** - Marrickville.  
**24<sup>th</sup> Fr Gerard Glynn CP** - Oxley.

**Br Charles Mercieca CP**, currently a resident at Nazareth House, Camberwell East, celebrated the **48<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of his Passionist Profession on **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### ***Birthdays Next Month:***

**19<sup>th</sup> Nov: Fr Chris Mithen CP** (Endeavour Hills)  
**25<sup>th</sup> November: Br Ed Braden CP** (Hobart)  
**27<sup>th</sup> November: Fr David King CP** (Oxley)

Next Monthly  
Passionist-Family Mass  
– **the 477<sup>th</sup> Family Mass since 1968** –

**October 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**  
*Celebrant: Fr Brian Traynor CP.*  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

*‘Master, grant that I may see.’* Mark 10: 46 - 52

### ***Last Month's Passionist-Family Mass.***

People who regularly come to the Passionists' Sunday Mass at Holy Cross sometimes comment that the celebration of the Eucharist is always varied, and often 'different'; the homilies are always topical, interesting, down-to-earth and certainly provide spiritual food for thought. Last month's Family Mass – September 27<sup>th</sup> – was no exception!

However, arriving at the Holy Cross Chapel for Mass, some of the 'regulars' noticed that although the choir was rehearsing as usual, **Joan O'Callaghan** was not seated at the Organ. That was different! However, **Barbara Ward** was there with her 'baton', leading the choir in its preparation and 'warm-up' and thankfully with **Maria-Grazia** at the organ – and she did a great job as Joan's 'stand-in'. Then, there was also a change to the advertised celebrant and **Fr Brian Traynor CP** 'came off the bench'.

The Choir proved to be in great form, and the choice of music – songs that encourage us to join in – was great.

And what else was 'different' – unexpected? Come Homily time, following a brief introduction to the Readings of the day, **Fr Brian CP** announced that the Homily would be continued by **Br Erick CP**.

It was great to be there. Apart from speaking at special occasions such as his Profession(s), Erick has not presented a Homily at Sunday Mass at Holy Cross; that certainly did not show.

**Erick** spoke with confidence; he included a personal story, relevant to the Gospel Reading, as Passionists often do; he added a touch of humour, maintaining our attention.

**Erick** spoke from the heart – not reading from a written page. The Gospel of the day focused on Jesus statement: ***'Whoever is not against us, is for us'***. Erick challenged us: 'what does it mean to be ***'for'*** Jesus?'

A good question. Certainly, the main emphasis proposed by Erick was this: ***Do all we do for LOVE and remove any impediment to achieve this.***

**Erick, you are truly a PASSIONIST.**