

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 205

19th January, 2024

Greetings,

We seem to be racing through January!

I enjoyed very much the opportunity to lead a retreat for our Passionist Youth Retreat Team (**PYRT**) last weekend. Their enthusiasm and commitment to this ministry is a great gift to the Province.

Rafael and **Budi** returned from a two-week holiday in Sydney on Wednesday. They have just a few days before resuming English studies at ELSPM on Monday, as will **Hai, Thang** and **Cu'ong**. Unfortunately **Cu'ong** contracted food poisoning on Thursday which necessitated an early morning visit to hospital with Erick.

Joseph has been in Canberra since Monday.

Chris is enjoying doing odd jobs and bike rides before YTU resumes.

Jerome has enjoyed getting outside in the garden on the hotter days. On Wednesday morning he watered the plants because "there will be no rain today" only to see torrential rain start falling at 10.30am!

Phi and **Tri** are into their final full week (they finish on Thursday next week) before they complete their Clinical Pastoral Education Course. As mentioned before, to follow on immediately from an academic year at YTU has been a demanding but rewarding experience for them.

Tuan Paul from Endeavour Hills has benefited from driving lessons from **Peter Norman**, which will continue for a few weeks. It will make a big difference to him when he acquires a driving licence. Our thanks again to Peter.

Rose our business manager will be away for at least two weeks, following knee surgery today.

The deck of cards

Tri came across the story of the man using a deck of cards to pray and thought it might be good to share in the newsletter. The story, put to music, tells of a soldier arrested for playing cards in church. The song was first released in 1948. The original story goes back at least to the mid 1880's and a similar version was told one hundred years earlier. <https://youtu.be/LsCiAxPhtVY?si=wDb7rZaywGH3DRG7>

That got me thinking about playing cards, so....

The Origin of Playing Cards

The exact origins of playing cards remain unknown, but it seems certain they were invented before 1000CE by the Chinese. Playing cards were likely brought to Europe from the Mameluke empire of Egypt. In this era, the card decks had a variety of words, shapes, and concepts on them including goblets, gold coins, polo sticks, and swords. Today's paper playing cards seem likely to have also evolved from the original patterned rectangles Mahjong tiles.



Playing cards began to appear in Europe in the 1370's. The first European playing cards were hand-painted and viewed as a luxury good. They were probably imported by merchants, gypsies, or crusaders. At that time, polo was unknown in Europe, so the polo sticks were transformed into batons which, together with swords, cups and coins, are still the traditional suits of Italian and Spanish cards.



A Latin manuscript written in 1377 by a German monk from Switzerland mentions the use of playing cards in a variety of card games. Playing cards then began to appear in dice games and gambling games. It is evident that 52 cards were used during this period. The first European decks, which most likely originated in Italy, were designed with suit signs of cups, coins, clubs, and swords. These Italian court cards include an enthroned king, a seated queen, a crowned queen and a knave

Spanish court cards were developed a little differently. They didn't contain the numbers 8, 9 or 10, and the cards included a king, a knight and a knave. Playing cards became increasingly popular and eventually spread north and west. Once playing cards reached Germany, they became more widely available.

The Germans formed their own suits on their court cards, which included: acorns, leaves, hearts and bells. These German suits are still used in parts of Europe, but their main contribution to the history of playing cards is their method of printing cards. They used printers to produce large quantities of playing cards, making them a leader in the playing card trade.





In the 15th century, France developed a suit of their own that is very similar to what we commonly use today (refle (clover), pique (pike-heads), coeur (hearts), and carreau (paving tiles). Common French suits included something like we are familiar with today: (hearts, spades, diamonds, clubs).

The French decided to divide the four suits into red and black playing cards with less complex symbols. This made it possible to produce playing cards with stencils, which greatly improved the manufacturing process and made production more efficient. The French became the dominant leader in the playing card trade.



Huge quantities of playing cards were transferred to England from Belgium. Because of an increase in tax prices in France, card makers opened factories and workshops in Belgium where they exported playing cards to various countries in Europe. The English used the same suits as the French and created the Ace of Spades. They stamped their cards with the Ace of Spades to prevent tax evasion.

England gained dominance in the playing card industry due to increased productivity and output. The United States created the Joker cards, also known as the trump card (not named after Donald!) for the game of euchre.

There has been an interplay between playing cards and tarot cards, but a normal tarot pack has 78 cards. The four suits serve to cover spirituality (hearts) the military (spades) agriculture (diamonds) and trade and commerce (diamonds) in reading tarot cards.



The most common theory for why there are 52 cards in a deck is that this represents the 52 weeks in a year. The 13 cards in a suit represent the thirteen weeks in each season and the four colours represent the four seasons. So why can't a soldier use a deck of cards to pray 'in church'?



Canadian **Dave Farrow** memorized on single sighting, a random sequence of 59 separate packs of cards (3,068 cards) on 2nd April 2007. The attempt took 4 hrs 58 min 20 secs not including breaks. Dave made just one mistake during the entire attempt, which he corrected unprompted.

In 2016, **Alex Mullen** remembered a random deck of cards in 18.65 seconds!

French	Hearts 	Diamonds 	Clubs 	Spades 
German	Hearts 	Bells 	Acorns 	Leaves 
Italian	Cups 	Coins 	Clubs 	Swords 
Spanish	Cups 	Coins 	Clubs 	Swords 
Swiss-German	Roses 	Bells 	Acorns 	Shields 

Adelaide holiday

One of the postulants, Cu'ong put together a two and a half minute video of their holiday in Adelaide.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l19mojXXJdeICub61SksU1jsVviVt6AY/view?usp=drivesdk>

Making yourself at home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0famkgWHDYo>

Copy Rocky's strick training regime

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG38XunFwXE>

Humour

1. A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty!'

2. Maurice, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Maurice walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. Maurice waved enthusiastically. Two days later when Maurice went to get the results of his tests, the doctor, 'You're really doing great, from what I saw?' Maurice replied, 'I'm Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful until I next see you.'" The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful!'

Hospital regulations required a wheel chair for patients being discharged where a student nurse was learning the ropes. She found an elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need her help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down she asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown!'

3, I find it ironic that the colours red, white and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

Relationships are like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you love someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

Money talks but all mine says is 'goodbye'.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch.

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of loan payments.

The location of your letter-box shows you how far away from your house you can go in a gown before you start looking like a runaway patient.



**Managing your weight
around the holidays just
requires a little planning..**

**For example, I took the
batteries out of my scale on
Wednesday.**



FOR MANY YEARS FRED'S SECRET
SUNDAY AFTERNOON NAPS
WENT UNDETECTED

**I got myself a
seniors' GPS. Not
only does it tell me
how to get to my
destination, it tells
me why I wanted to
go there.**



**I made a huge
to do list for
today.
I just can't
figure out who's
going to do it.**

Best thing I ever did

Congratulations

Our two brothers, **Chris Mithen** and **Gerald Quinn** who are residing in Nazareth are celebrating milestones.

Chris was 73 years professed on Wednesday

Gerald will be 67 years professed on January 27th

Prayers

We remember Carmel King, mother of David CP who passed away last week. She and Merv have been married 71 years! Also **Vince Costantino** (friend of the Hardinge family who passed away on Wednesday. **We** also remember those whose anniversaries occur around this week, especially **Angelina Monarco** (21st January), **Viv Rabot** (husband of Ann) and **Mary Bortolotto** (Tina Molinaro's sister) 22nd January, **Marie Mears**, 25th January, **George Bennett** (brother-in-law of Judy Milton) 26th January and **Bartolomeo Mandaglio** (friend of the Rao family)..

We remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.



Maree Bartoli, Paul Geoghegan, Tony Tome, Pam Storey, Peter McNamara, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Michael O'Callaghan Dawn Heffernan, Maeve & John Reardon, Gerry Bond, Greg Agosta, Bronwyn Burke, Shirley Barnes, Helen McLean, Mary Hackett, Pam Gartland, Errol Lovett, Phil Drew, Monique Hardinge, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Kate and Mary Dunn, Chris O'Toole, Gary Perritt CP, Jeff Foale CP Gerald Quinn CP.

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

Brian