

THE THIRD ORDER:

Australian Province Newsletter

Volume 6:2

Pentecost 2005

From the Provincial Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings and Peace. We have come to that lovely time in the Church's year when we "dwell" on the gift of the Holy Spirit. We live in the knowledge of this gift to the Church and the reality we experience of the movement of the Spirit in our everyday lives. Perhaps at this time we have a heightened awareness, that is not always there.

Is it possible to portray the Spirit in the images we have traditionally used, tongues of fire, the colour red? As we look around we see the explosions of colour in Autumn, especially the red leaves. Perhaps it is clearer for us as individuals to see God's spirit active in our own lives, moving us, influencing our choices, calming or exciting us, touching the lives of others.

It is when we reflect that we can see the movement of the Spirit in our own lives. In my life I experienced that strong movement six years ago when I was a delegate to the Inter-Provincial meeting s being held in Brisbane and following which I allowed my name to go forward as a possible Provincial Minister of the Australian Third Order. The rest is history!

Our Third Order is a world-wide Franciscan Order that meets as such every six years to consider administration and matters that affect us all. Each of the five Provinces has three representatives, the Provincial Minister, the Provincial Chaplain, and one other Tertiary elected by the Provincial Chapter who meet under the guidance of the Minister General of the Third Order. This year end August/early September, the Inter-Provincial Third Order Chapter (IPTOC)

will meet in Canterbury, U.K. We will also meet delegates from the First and Second Orders so that there is the opportunity for expression as a whole Franciscan community within the Anglican Church. It is a unique moment in time. At the recent Chapter meeting held in Stroud, the Rev.'d Sally Buckley was elected as the third Australian Province representative. Sally is the priest in charge of Esperance, W.A. and has been a faithful , although isolated ,Tertiary , who was professed in 1991.

Many of you will have met Sally at General Chapter, and as well as the W.A. Tertiaries, others of us have enjoyed the W.A. Newsletter of encouragement, that she edited and circulated until recently.

There is a team of Tertiaries continually at work to provide a network in which the rest of us function and are connected with each other, and I take this opportunity to thank all of them.

When IPTOC met in 1999 there was much discussion revolving around Day 7 of the Principles and a sheet was circulated to all Tertiaries giving a helpful guide "Love and Harmony What first steps can I take today?". At our Chapter meetings this year it became obvious that not all members had a copy of this. It was suggested at the time that it be inserted in our Manual for use, if required ,alongside Day 7. A copy of this helpful guide will shortly be circulated again to all Tertiaries to be placed in the Manual.

Every blessing, peace and all good. May we always be aware of the power of the Holy Spirit in our Church and in our lives,

Val.

Val has asked that this Letter from Graeme Curry be published.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
At the Easter meeting of the Third Order Provincial Chapter my request for release from Profession in the Third Order has been considered and granted. This is to enable me to continue to explore my possible vocation to the Order of Saint Benedict at Saint Mark's Abbey. I commenced my Postulancy at the Abbey on 31 August 2004 and was clothed as a Novice on 8 December 2004 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) taking the name of Brother Ephraem. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated. With my love, prayers and good wishes,
(Sgd) Graeme Curry (Brother Ephraem)

A contribution from Elizabeth Game in Canberra;

I recently enjoyed a relaxing holiday on a houseboat on the Murray upstream from Renmark. It was a far cry from what we know of the way of life of Francis and his followers.

They wandered into Italian villages, over rolling hills and through luxuriant forests.

We encountered a landscape dominated by stressed river gums, where scarcely

a blade of grass penetrated the sunbaked soil.

On my return, I penned these thoughts:

MURRAY RIVER

Tree trunks lying heavily on the ground,
shapely human, staring at you,
not moving.
Like animals as big as elephants, or birds,
staring into space.
Red cliffs looking down at you,
austere in their nakedness.

Sadness came over me as I looked into the bush;
leaves are limp, asking to be picked up.

Grove after grove of red river gums are parched on the dry land.

We saw birds chattering and dipping into the water.
Goannas scavenged around our campsite with squabbling kookaburras and magpies.

Emus and kangaroos slaked their thirst among swans, egrets and wood-ducks.

Glorious sunrises and sunsets made a perfect backdrop for stately pelicans.

CHANGES TO THE ADDRESS BOOK.

Novices

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Tel: 03 5977 9573 email: cjval@optusnet.com.au
Mrs. Mary Birch 13 Meridan Way Tweed Heads NSW 2483 QLD B N 16/4/05
Rev'd Warren Blomely PO Box 52 Mullumbimby NSW 2482 QLD B N 16/4/05
Rev'd Ken Reardon 23 Coonowrin Street Dicky Beach QLD 4551 QLD B N16/4/05

Professed

Geoff Nutting P 21/5/05

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Rev'ds Ray & Roslyn Clifton 22 Meleuca St Kawungan Qld 4655

Elizabeth Game 10 Johnson Place Farrer Act 2607

Rev'd Timothy Teng-Wei Huang 3 Anthony Crescent Box Hill North Victoria 3129

Rev'd Michael Kelly PO Box 439 Redcliffe Qld 4020

Glenda Mill 6 Coree Close Jindalee Qld 4074

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Bill Pearson billanon@kissue.net.au

Rev'd Cleone Rolf-Reardon kencleone@optusnet.com.au

Maragret Whereat MW388398@bigpond.com.au

Novice Dates

Stephen Farmer 6/7/04 HK

Simon Fong 6/7/04 HK

Burm Hur 10/7/04 HK

SunLing White 6/7/04 HK

Fay Mansfield 24/7/04 QLD B

Profession Dates

Colin Fidock (correction) P 20/04/85

Bernice Goon Chew P 06/06/04

Vale

Eileen Berry Died 27/04/04

Telephone Numbers

Rev'd Alan Kendal Tel: 08 8255 6614 Fax 08 8522 1404

Rev'd Peter Llewellyn Tel: 03 5182 5117

Bill Pearson Tel: 08 8581 1460

Mark your calendars ...27th November...Advent Sunday

Aspects of the Life of St Francis in Art and Music

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Brothers Church ...St Philips Annerley.

2-30pm Musical excerpts from the OPERA St Francis by Betty Beath.

11am Eucharist followed by lunch and art exhibition

Pilgrimage and Retreat to Assisi is being planned for the last week in Jan 2006. Please contact Br Donald if you are interested.

pax

Br Donald

A contribution from Steve Howes
FRANCISCAN IDEALS IN
AUSTRALIA

LEPROSY SUFFERERS

Just as St. Francis brought God's love to leprosy sufferers in the 13th century, so too did the first missionaries in the Northern Territory in the 1920s before the Flying Doctor services began.

Susannah, an Aboriginal woman, had to be isolated from her community because of her leprosy. To appreciate something of the compassion shown her by a missionary, Miss Cross, together with three Aboriginal girls, we need to read between the lines of this account by another missionary there.

"We cannot speak too highly of the attention given to (Susannah) by three girls,

Biddy, Priscilla and Charlotte, when in her helpless state, and Miss Cross was wonderful in her attention all the time. The love, care and attention bestowed on her

by Miss Cross when she was in a most repulsive condition was a lesson to us all, and we thank God for His grace given to her and for her example to us."

Alf Dyer was another such missionary. His devotion was recalled by one of the mixed-race people who grew up on the mission. "Mr. Dyer was a real Christian man... Even if there was a leper full of sores, I've seen him go up and put his arm around them and drink from the same cup."

Today, as Franciscans, we also can thank God for the loving service of missionaries such as Miss Dove and Alf Dyer.

Reference: J. Harris, *We wish we'd done more: ninety years of CMS and Aboriginal issues in north Australia*, (Adelaide, Open Book, 1999) p.190, 195. See also p. 184 - 195.

From Val

While on a recent holiday at Rainbow Beach, near Tweed Heads, I had the unexpected pleasure of being able to attend a novicing of three enquirers, Mary Burch, Ken Reardon, and Warren Blomley. A group of Tertiaries had come down from Brisbane and Bishop Keith had come from Grafton, and myself from Sydney. The lovely choral Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Keith and Cleone Rolfe-Reardon admitted the new Novices, including her husband! It was a special day arranged by Joan Owen at her church of St. Cuthbert, Tweed Heads, special in many ways, but until that day Joan has been the only Tertiary on the Gold Coast and so she was delighted to be joined by Mary Burch. It was made into a parish occasion as well as a day for Franciscan fellowship.

I suggest to all Tertiaries that when travelling to another part of Australia or beyond, contact the Regional Minister or Area Convenor and enquire if there is a Tertiary gathering happening while you are there. Remember the joy we all have experienced when we are able at General Chapter to meet others who we pray for in our cycle of prayer. The occasion for me had a feeling of 'serendipity'.



The Novicing of Mary Burch, Warren Bromley and Ken Reardon at Tweed Heads Anglican Church on Saturday 16th April 2005.



Franciscans at the Provincial Chapter meeting at Stroud on 2nd April, 2005.

The following two items come from the 'Third Order News - UK Clarevision'

How do you tell your father you want to become a nun? That was the question posed at the beginning of Michael Wicherek's one-woman play 'Clarevision', which was performed at St Katherine's Foundation in Limehouse, London on Sunday 27 February.

Originally commissioned by Sister Joyce and debuted at the Greenbelt Festival in August 2004, the play was performed as part of the weekend of celebrations to mark the centenary of the CSF. It proved to be a joyful gathering for the first order Sisters, as well as for the Brothers, Tertiaries, Companions and other church representatives in the audience.

The play is a 21st Century setting of Clare's struggle with her calling to become a nun, the unutterable n-word as this Clare for today amusingly dubs it in the play. Here Clare is a twenty-something English woman, struggling to tell her father about her vocation and that she is leaving him, her home, a decent job with Nestle and a boyfriend called Matt. Clare's best friend even wants to hold a wake to mourn her imminent departure instead of a farewell party.

Whether Clare does follow through and become a nun is left unclear at the end, but actress Melanie Clark Pullen's sensitive portrayal of Clare's physical and emotional journey clearly resonated with the audience. The discussion time which followed the performance gave the Brothers and Sisters a rare opportunity to share their own experiences of vocation, and revealed glimpses of the personal, familial and professional struggles which, for many, marked their entry into the religious life.

Brian Berry, Berkshire Area

Remember, the tortoise beat the hare in the race!

Last year, I attended a novice training day in an upper room of St John's church building, Hills Road, Cambridge. An open sharing led to someone making a comment that now, in retrospect, a year or so later, made me realise that they were not aware of the movement for the unity of Anglican and Methodist churches.

The following is a key extract from the Anglican Methodist Covenant 2003 of which two copies were signed by: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, The Secretary General of the General Synod and the Archbishops` Council, The Secretary of the Methodist Conference.

We affirm one another's churches as true churches belonging to the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ and as truly participating in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God.

We affirm that in both our churches the word of God is authentically preached, and the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist are duly administered and celebrated.

I thought that this would be of great interest to our brothers and sisters in the Third Order especially in the light of our open invitation to members of other churches to join us in Holy Communion with our LORD Jesus Christ (TSSF website questions page).

A person in receipt of Holy Wisdom once said: "As there is such a diverse understanding of the nature of the consecrated elements among Christians, perhaps it would be better to focus instead upon the LORD's intention behind the institution of Holy Communion?"

This intention, I believe, starts with "U" for unity.

Philip Downing (novice), Cambridge Area



Hi All

We have a new Franciscan (though not baptised yet): Lachlan Solomon Smith. Son of Stephanie and Matthew, companions at St Philips, SSF Brisbane.

Regards, Matthew Smith



From the General Chapter ;

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings in Christ.

Now is the time to start thinking seriously about General Chapter. Our theme is 'Francis, a Patch on a Hurting World', focussing on social justice and non-violence issues. The venue will be the Bel Eyre Motel, Belmont, WA, from the afternoon of Wednesday, 27 September until after lunch on Sunday, 1 October 2006. We have chosen this time as it comes right in the middle of the WA wildflower season so please think about making it a holiday as well as chapter. The WA Tertiaries are excited about our plans.

The motel is close to Perth Airport, and a shuttle bus can be arranged if we know your flight details. It is only 10 minutes from the City with many attractions, such as the Art Gallery, Museums and Kings Park. The beach is a 20-minute bus ride. It will take about an hour to get to Fremantle, which has retained its colonial character, no high-rise buildings there. In Fremantle, you will also find the Maritime Museum the Arts centre, The Round House (the first prison in WA), markets and much more, and of course the Cappuccino Strip when tired of walking. We shall be

looking forward to
seeing as many of you
as possible

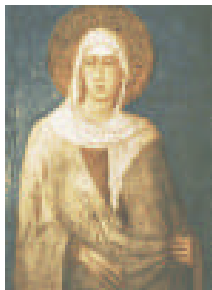


We are negotiating with Dr. Robert Bela Wilhelm from the US to present a series of workshops on story telling for spiritual growth. Storyteller and theologian, Robert is a leading Catholic pioneer in sacred storytelling and narrative theology. As founder and director of the School of Sacred Storytelling

(www.sacredstorytelling.org), he provides both training in practical skills and an understanding of narrative theology and spirituality.

Please use the attached booking form or book online at weirdo.bur.st/tssf2006. A variety of rooms is available, including Single, Double, Twin and multiple-share rooms. It is planned that one afternoon will be free for sightseeing or relaxation, as you wish. On this day, dinner is not included, so that you do not need to be back at the motel quite so early. All other meals from Wednesday dinner through to Sunday lunch are included. By registering early, before 7 November 2005, you save \$50 per person. Rooms can be booked for extra nights: prices are for the room only without meals.

Pax et Bonum from Western Australia
Read the last three pages- don't forget the advantages of early bird registration!



Clare



A Sustainable Island? - A Theme Article from 'Summer Chronicle 99' by John Smith who is a tertiary from Lancashire. About 700 AD a group of travelers came upon a paradise island, with waving trees, a rich vegetation and generous seas. The soil was fertile and rich. They landed and prospered, but in their prosperity they overused the soil and chopped down all the trees. Within a short space of time the soil degenerated to scarcity, the trees which were fundamental to the sustainability of the island no longer gave generously to the goodness of the soil and the only resource left to make boats to fish were reeds. So the people who caused this depredation starved and died with their children, and what had once been a thriving population of eleven thousand was reduced to a few hundred starving in poverty. They could not escape from their island as they no longer had any trees from which to build

boats which originally brought them to their paradise. They did, however, leave hundreds of stone statues whose silent gaunt faces gazed out at the sea they came from and now could not cross. So they thrived, then died and perished over a period of about 800 years. All because they misused the land which they believed their gods had given them. Had they kept the trees, had they tilled the land wisely, had they lived sensibly within the sustainable limits of the island they would have prospered. Now they are gone and only the implacable faces of their stone statues remain for us to wonder and question (and now to understand) why Easter Island is, centuries later, so barren. The island houses often fearful ghosts of the past which if we do not learn their tragic lesson may come to haunt us. There are three questions which we need to ask ourselves as we examine our beautiful blue, generous but isolated planet set in a sea of space, whose distances are so great that no human being has yet travelled to the nearest neighbouring planet where life may exist: If a growing population is good for our- consumer economy because it increases the market for goods, how many people are too many for the planet to support them? If increasing consumption is good for the economy using irreplaceable resources, or- consuming resources such as trees at a rate they cannot be renewed, how long can we sustain such a lifestyle for so many? If the expansion of the market economy is essential for continued economic growth, does this not bring the natural world under the shortsighted and exploitative economic logic of competition, profit and the market? So the question must be asked, is the goodness of the island planet on which we live and on which we depend sustainable, given the present lifestyle of the people of this island planet? Or to put it another way, is the creation of

our God which He made to be good under the activities of the disobedient Adam sustainable? The answers lie in scientific and social analysis as they lie in the scientific and social analysis which tells us the story of Easter Is

A Short Editorial

With my wife, Sue, we run a small farm on the outskirts of Bathurst, which in a good season returns a little profit, however, at present we are suffering a rather prolonged dry period, though last night we had some rain (15mm) for the first time in a long time. A few weeks ago we were running short of water for both our animals and our garden so we hired a rather large excavator to dig a deep hole in the side of our creek. Thankfully that hole filled up overnight. But before we could utilize that water, and even though there had been no precipitation in the whole of our local catchment for some time, the creek began to flow, not just with a trickle but with a good solid flow. This has been happening now for the past three weeks and has allowed us to fill our house dam thus ensuring that we have a water supply for our animals and garden through into next summer. Our prayers have been answered and we know we are being looked after.

We give thanks to God for his wondrous blessing to us and all of those in our area who are able to now better enjoy the wonders of His creation.

We are now drawn more closely to think on the Easter Island story above and to consider how we can ask Saint Francis to guide us in our better understanding of our environment especially in relation to actions we might carry out to help us all preserve our ecological systems which are everyday coming under severe threat.

We would, along with many others, really appreciate your intercessory prayers for the safety and security of our precious environment.

General Chapter and Conference Booking Form

Please complete this form, or book on-line at weirdo.bur.st/tssf2006. **Costs are per person**, except for extra nights accommodation. If you would like to share a twin or multiple room to reduce cost, this can be arranged. Please list name(s) of people sharing, if known.

Christian name

Surname

Address:

Suburb:

State: _____ Postcode _____

Phone: (home) _____

(work) _____

(mobile) _____

Email:

Amount Included With This

Registration

\$ _____

For more information

David White
5 Mandora Way, Riverton, WA, 6148.
08 9457 6109 or email
tssf2006@weirdo.bur.st

Conference Fee (per person)

* includes lunches (all days) and dinners (3 days)

Normal Registration (by 8 March 2006):

\$320

Early bird (by 7 November 2005):

\$270

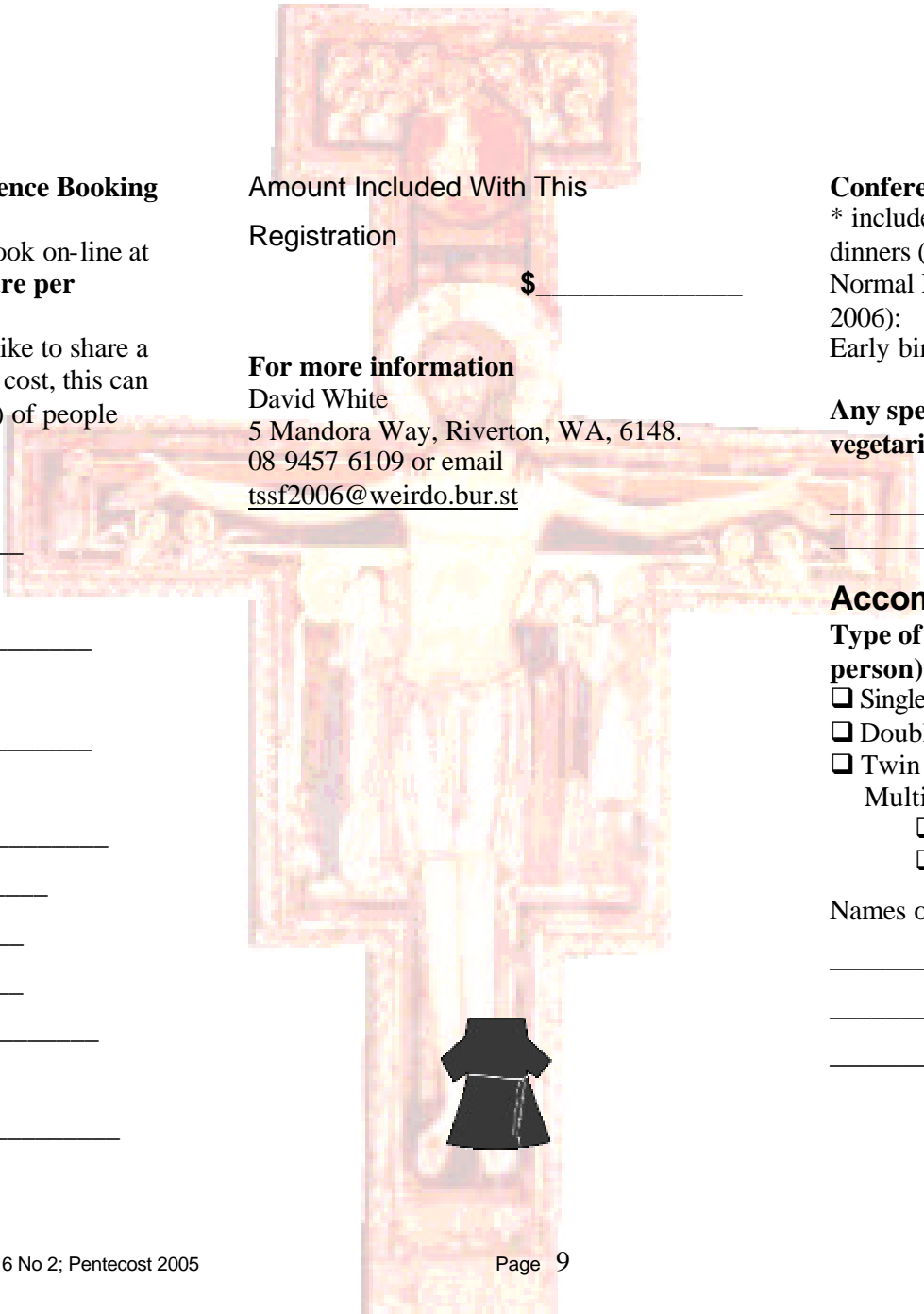
Any special diet required (e.g. vegetarian)

Accommodation

Type of Room Required (price per person)

- Single \$470
- Double Share \$250 each
- Twin Share \$250 each
- Multiple Share \$210 each
 - Quad (1 double, 2 singles)
 - Quin (1 double, 3 singles)

Names of people sharing room:



Additional nights accommodation before and after Conference
In case you want to stay an extra few days before and after the Conference.

Arrival Date:

Check out Date:

Number of Extra days:

Type of room required:
(Approx. rates per room per night)

- Single \$106
- Double \$106
- Twin \$106
- Quad \$129
- Quin \$141



Australian Province
General Chapter

Perth, Western Australia

27 September – 1 October
2006

Bel Eyre Motel
Great Eastern Highway
Belmont WA 6104

St. Francis: A Patch on a Hurting

