

THE THIRD ORDER

Australian Province Newsletter, PNG & East Asia

Pentecost

Edition

FROM THE PROVINCIAL

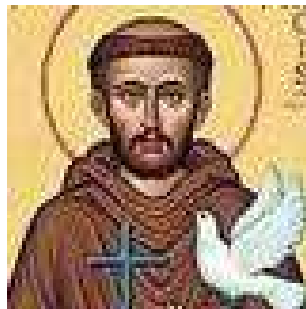
Dear brothers and sisters,
'The year seems to be flying by'...a comment often made by many I meet especially those who are retired. It is often followed by the comment that life is full of activities that involve community support and reaching out to others. For me the joy has been in having the opportunity to be able to visit many members of the Queensland B Region, to share their stories, to worship, to listen and to sit at the table sharing in food and conversation.

Henri Nouwen, in his book, Seeds of hope, wrote: 'I keep wondering how people with deep religious convictions can speak together at table about the life of the spirit'. I am indeed thankful for each and every moment of my time with all our brothers and sisters in Queensland B, who enabled me to feel so welcome. At every opportunity, and often at meals together, we shared our common faith and our journey as brothers and sisters of the Third Order, striving with and in the power of the Holy Spirit to discern for each of us God's will.

Fred Schaeffer SFO wrote in Gifts of the spirit for the common good: 'Franciscans may ask what the Gifts of the Holy Spirit have to do with Franciscan spirituality. It is an interesting question. There are at least two references in The Little Flowers of Saint Francis:

'And now hear the conclusion, Brother Leo. Above all the graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ gives to His friends is that of conquering oneself and willingly enduring sufferings, insults, humiliations, and hardships for the love of Christ. For we cannot glory in all those other marvellous gifts of God, as they are not ours but God's, as the Apostle says: 'What have you that you have not received?' But we can glory in the cross of tribulations and afflictions, because that is ours, and so the Apostle says: 'I will not glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.'" (The Little Flowers, VIII)

Above all the graces and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ grants to his friends, is the grace of overcoming oneself, and accepting willingly, out of love for Christ, all suffering, injury, discomfort and contempt; for in all other gifts of God we cannot glory, seeing they proceed not from ourselves but from God, according to the words of the Apostle, What hast



thou that thou hast not received from God? and if thou hast received it, why dost thou glory as if thou hadst not received it? But in the cross of tribulation and affliction we may glory, because, as the Apostle says again, I will not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (The Little Flowers, VII).

In the above passages, Francis was talking about the gifts of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, piety, fear of the Lord, and, fortitude, all gifts given to us in our journey of faith as individuals and as community'.

In my Provincial's report, I referred to two writers, **Edwina Gately and Richard Rohr** the latter well known to many of you.

Edwina wrote in her book, **A mystical heart:** Christ could be born a thousand times in Galilee – but all in vain until he is born in me...She followed this with a poem that I found inspiring. Seed of God, be born in me, thrust new life forward like a sap filled tree.

Rising from your pool of grace, rooted in my wombs embrace. Seed of God, burst forth in me. **Let me stretch that God might be**'.

Richard Rohr, A Franciscan friar, publishes a daily meditation that I find thought provoking.

In one such meditation he wrote: "The word of God [calls us to action and is] telling us very clearly that if you do not do it, you in fact, do not believe it and have not heard it. [James 1: 19-27] The only way we can become convinced of the power of the Spirit given to each of us is by actually doing it – crossing the line, a line that has a certain degree of nonsensicalness and unprovability to it – and that's why it's called faith....." **Let me stretch that God might be.**

St Francis crossed this line and continues to show us the way as he reminds us that God is with us, calling us through his spirit to be his channels of peace and love.

Let us stretch that God might be.

Colin tssf

Galatians: 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.



Visit us on the web at www.tssf.org.au

*PHOTOS
OF
CHAPTER
AT STROUD*



Left to right....
 John Gibson ,
 Tony Hall-Matthews,
 Joan Manners
 Esme Parker,
 David McAvenna,
 Elaine Jeston,
 David White,
 Joy Bartlett,
 Colin Fidock,
 Sandra Jackson,
 Helen Granowski,
 Glenys McCarrick,
 Rae Witham.

*COLIN FIDOCK (PROVINCIAL MINISTER)
VISITING QUEENSLAND B REGION*



Forgiveness Matthew 18:21-38

By: Anne Kotze, tssf.

Presented at St John's Anglican Church,
Halifax Street, Adelaide, 23/3/2013

The first point to think about is this - We have no option but to forgive! "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Are we really aware that, if we do not forgive, then our Lord cannot forgive us? Is our hurt so painful that we can forgo God's forgiveness for our many failings - I am not exaggerating - and putting our souls in jeopardy?

I quote from Bp. Oscar Romero: "Each one has committed his or her shameful deeds and yet we want to cast our guilt on the other and hide our own sin. I must take off my mask. I, too, am one of them, and I need to beg God's pardon because I have offended God and society. This is the call of Christ."

Forgiveness is a basic Christian requirement, which if not dealt with, turns to bitterness and hate. Here in this room we are not dealing with physical hurts or serious offenses. We are dealing with hurtful words. There is a saying, "sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me", and it is just not true, because we can be hurt by words.

There are two kinds of hurtful criticism - Firstly, deserved - which could be used humbly as a learning experience. Secondly, undeserved - where with God's help we can say, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they do." Why do we feel hurt if we are criticised? Do we think carefully of what has been said and see whether the words were justified? If so, are we prepared to learn from it? Or, do we rather think: "Who does he think he is to say that to me! I am doing my best but she doesn't recognise that! If I am not good enough they can find someone else to do it!"

If it is justified, why do we find it so difficult to accept it with humility - one of the pillars of Franciscanism. It could be the moment when we decide to do better. There is pride hidden in this scenario - the hurt feelings, the dislike of criticism.

Some people seem to be born tactless; to have no awareness of how hurtful words can be. Are we over judgemental? Do we recognise the difficulties some people have in doing things correctly? Sometimes criticism is necessary but should not be said before others and always said with loving kindness.

I am asking you to forgive the person who has hurt you, to put it behind you for good. To learn from it, if there is a lesson there, but to move on. I am asking you to watch your words of criticism and to be aware if they have been hurtful. I am asking you to speak if you have been hurt so that the other can recognise that their words have not been loving and caring.

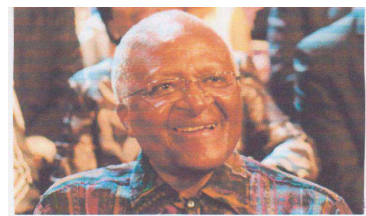
To end I want to put our little hurts into perspective by reading you a prayer written by a Jew in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp on a piece of wrapping paper near the

body of a dead child. Here is someone who has risen above unbelievable pain and suffering, inflicted knowingly - "Lord, remember not only the men and woman of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not only remember the suffering they have inflicted upon us: also remember the fruits we have borne because of this suffering - our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart, which has grown out of all this. And when they come to judgement, let all the fruits we have borne, be their forgiveness." THAT is Heroic Forgiveness.

*Our Love and
Prayers for
Merril & Bevan
on their Special
Anniversary.
God's Blessings on
your 60 years of
Marriage &
our Prayers for many
more years together ahead.
Blessings from your Brothers & Sisters tssf*



**Desmond Tutu
wins Templeton
prize for
advancing
'spiritual
progress'**



Photograph: Siphwi Sibeko/Reuters

Desmond Tutu was praised for his 'steadfastness to core Christian principles such as love and forgiveness'.

Desmond Tutu, a clarion voice from the pulpit during South Africans' struggle against racial apartheid, has won the £1.1m Templeton prize for advancing the "spiritual liberation" of people around the world.

Special Acknowledgements go to the Regional Ministers who have completed their term of dedicated service to the Province and their particular region.
Qld A: Elaine Jeston,
NSWA : Esme Parker,
WA: Rae Witham,
Malaysia: Gerald Ng.
Please pray for those who are to be called to fill these positions in our Province.

Part 2 of A Franciscan Pilgrimage

By: Rev. Perrial Clift



After several days visiting Saints Bernardine, Margaret, Anthony and Catherine and their various churches and exploring many lovely Northern Italian cities and towns and their wonderful galleries; and constantly marveling at the panoramic views which we were privileged to see as we drove, dotted with ancient castles and monasteries perched on the mountainsides, we were approaching the place which every Franciscan longs to visit: Assisi. I must admit to a few qualms of doubt; “On my second visit, would

Assisi hold the same mysterious spiritual attraction for me that it had before?” I asked myself, as, in obedience to the sometimes eccentric commands of our GPS, we left the sealed road and began to wind our way up the foothills of Mt Subiaso through picturesque clusters of houses and farms; Assisi’s walls and rose pink buildings now appearing, now disappearing above us.

We stopped inside the gate to get our bearings – then on to the ‘American Sisters’ [the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement] whose welcome is justifiably famous. I need not have worried; the spirit of Francis and Clare was in the air, inviting us to fall in love with Jesus all over again. I love the way almost every home or business has a little shrine – or at least a locally fashioned tile affixed to the outside wall honouring the Lord - or



Mary, Francis or Clare; and everywhere sculptures, paintings and other artwork draw us back toward our Franciscan roots. One of my most precious memories is that of celebrating the Eucharist in the Sister’s Chapel during our stay.

And so we began; first with the Rocca Maggiore, to gain some insight into the way of life in Francis and Clare’s times. Standing sentinel over Assisi its watchmen – on a clear day – could see great distances to the Umbrian Mountains in the east and Assisi to the west. We marvelled at the short stature of the people evidenced by the low



doorways, remembering that Francis is said to have been less than 5ft tall. Did Francis use grisly weapons like those on display before he was taken prisoner in the war against Perugia? Is it true that servants who did not please the local ruler were simply thrown over the battlements? They were violent times.

If you’ve been to Assisi you saw what we saw – the tiny ‘cave’ where legend claims Francis was born, the font in the Basilica of San Rufino where both the Saints were baptized, [the picture is of the ornamentation above the font] the house where Clare lived, the square where the famous interchange with the Bishop took place.... San Damiano, where Christ’s words came to Francis from the crucifix. San Damiano is a place seemingly held in it’s original simplicity: you have only to close your eyes and it’s easy to imagine Francis praying in the ancient church. Clare and her Sisters’ prayers still hang in the air there. How rudimentary the



furniture – one looks in vain for any sign of comfort – and yet those Sisters confined within these walls for a lifetime, exuded joy and grace, their eyes fixed on our lovely Lord. The intricately carved life-sized wooden crucifix [by

Fra Innocenzo de Palermo, 1637] in a side-chapel remains in my memory. Down to Rivortorto we went to visit the replica hut from which the poor Friars were evicted by a man and his goat. It was here that Francis wrote the Friar’s names on the ceiling beams, so that each man knew where he should lie to sleep. This is the scene of the story of the hungry Friar who woke everyone in his distress, causing Francis to announce a midnight feast to spare his feelings. We spent an afternoon in Gubbio, where we had such a confusion of directions to follow we missed the most important church with the relics of the wolf inside, and settled for a statue of Brother Wolf outside the other St Francis’ Church in town. The remnants of the deep dark forest surrounded us on the hillsides, firing our imaginations to furniture – one looks in vain for any sign of comfort – and yet those Sisters confined within these walls for a lifetime, exuded joy and grace, their eyes fixed on our lovely Lord. The intricately carved life-sized wooden crucifix [by Fra Innocenzo de Palermo, 1637] in a side-chapel remains in my memory. Down to Rivortorto we went to visit the replica hut from which the poor Friars were evicted by a man and his goat. It was here that Francis wrote the Friar’s names on the ceiling beams, so that each man knew where he should lie to sleep. This is the scene of the story of the hungry Friar who woke everyone in his distress, causing Francis to announce a midnight feast to spare his feelings. We spent an afternoon in Gubbio, where we had such a confusion of directions to follow we missed the most important church with the relics of the wolf inside, and settled for a statue of Brother Wolf outside the other St Francis’ Church in town. The remnants of the deep dark forest surrounded us on the hillsides, firing our imaginations to visualize that tiny isolated village once held in the grip of fear of known and unknown threats from its silent mysterious depths.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch on a beautiful day in the national park outside the Eremo della Carceri; that rocky mountainside where Francis and his brothers sought solitude to pray.

The jewel like Portiuncula at the great Church of St Mary of the Angels is another ‘thin’ place where God seems so very close, it almost took my breath away, as it clearly did for those who dropped to their knees when they entered the tiny shrine. The Sisters of St Clare dedicated the Chapel here at the Monastery in Stroud to Mary of the Angels, and I often think of Francis’ love for that place, which he asked his Brothers to always keep safe, declaring that Mary loved it above all other places. Our chapel is also a liminal place, where one can sense the holy presence of God ...people, not always Christians, frequently comment on it. Two days ago a visitor, chattering ten to the dozen walked in and suddenly stopped short. He stood in silence for a time then asked “Why does it feel so good in here?”

The two great Basilica’s: – we filed past Clare’s remains, although now her crumbling body has been sealed in some waxy substance. The tomb of St Francis too – both were chock-a-block with pilgrims wanting to pay their respects to the Saints that have helped them walk the Way. The sheer pleasure of sitting

for a long time, reading the story of Francis' life as 'written' in Giotto's fresh, vibrant masterpieces at the Basilica of St Francis on its walls and ceilings, as pilgrims must have done for hundreds of years.



We attended the Corpus Christi Mass at Clare's Basilica. There was standing room only. An unbelievably long procession of Franciscan nuns and Friars then fell in behind the Host, held under a magnificent canopy as it wound its way down to Francis' Basilica. Hundreds of brown-clothed Franciscans, followed by more hundreds of ordinary folk joined in, and

every shopkeeper emerged to stand respectfully watching as the procession passed in silence.

I wonder how many Tertiaries know there is an SSF Brother resident in Assisi just down the street from the American Sisters? Visitors are welcome and there are two or three spare rooms. We spent the morning with Br. Thomas Anthony, who showed us around his lovely apartment. A Sunday Anglican Eucharist is held at St Leonard's Church, which has beautiful frescoes of Francis' life in the hall.

And of course the Assisi cross-stitch and pottery and handcrafts had to be given space; not to mention the wine and pasta! I bought a lovely ceramic chalice and paten which was made in a little village close by Assisi. In traditional blue and white, it is decorated with peacocks, a symbol of Christ. [It was once believed that the flesh of the peafowl did not corrupt after death, so it became a symbol of immortality] When Chapter met at Stroud this year our Chaplain The Rev'd Dr Helen Granowski blessed it.

La Verna of course is not to be missed. That rocky mountain swathed in mist, gifted to Francis by a wealthy landowner as a place for prayer. Built straight out of the side of the mountain the enormous Monastery rises into the skyline, surrounded by whispering forests and deep chasms of rock. At every turn there is evidence of Francis and his companions – St Anthony slept here, St Bonaventure there... here is the rough, uneven, cold, unwelcoming cave where Francis slept. No wonder he sat up praying all night! We attended Mass in the Church of Mary of the Angels, and the daily procession to the Chapel of the Stigmata. Something prevented me from going on, so I remained behind as the procession continued, and sat for ages in the silence. Francis' longing to suffer with Christ holds a peculiar fascination for me. His love was so strong; to me the love between Christ and Francis is almost palpable in that Chapel. I breathed it in. I didn't want to leave: I wanted to be a part of that love. Later I remember that's what happened when I was there in 2009 too. Perhaps next time I'll get to finish the procession! I later sat outside on the 'precipice' from which Francis was nearly thrown by a demon, for hours and drank in the beauty of the valley – I needed that. Nothing Michelangelo or Rueben could do can compare with this – the very mountains, the trees, all singing their praises to the Creator. And the food at La Verna Monastery is legendary.

Life goes on. And we went on – to Rome, where just as in Francis' time beggars sit outside St Peter's, and Francis exchanged his clothes with one, spending the day begging there. Like Francis, we had an audience with the Pope – but unlike him, we have not

gone on to change the Church. [Although us women in our clerical blacks did raise some eyebrows. Clearly some folk had never set eyes on a woman priest before.] Still maybe in the grace of God, as Francis did what God had for him to do, we can do what God has for us to do, though it be ever so small a thing: and maybe together we can make some changes for the good, in the power of the Spirit.

Pace e bene.

To Saint Francis

By: Robyn Jenkins

Little holy man of God
your light shines through the centuries.
It catches me in its beam and I am blinded by
the brilliance,
but then I see – and seeing clearly know
the way to live,
the way to follow Jesus Christ and make him known
in all my living.
It is by going your way,
you who lived so long ago
in love, humility and joy,
and call me too to live this way,
to show the world the One you love
that they may love him too.
Today I belong to the society of your name
and tread the Franciscan path.
Guide me, holy man of God.
Show me the way.

Third Order Hospitality

By: David White

Chapter was requested to consider facilitating Tertiaries who wish to offer short-term hospitality to other Tertiaries who happen to be travelling through.

To enable other members know that you are interested in offering hospitality, a symbol will be placed against your name in the Address List.

The intent is that any such hospitality be of a limited, short-term duration, and would only happen when mutually convenient. Indicating in the Address List that you are interested in offering hospitality is done with the understanding that circumstances change and that it may not be possible to offer hospitality when someone asks about it.

If you are interested in participating, please email me at comms@tssf.org.au or write to me, David White, 5 Mandora Way, Riverton, WA 6148, by July 10, as this is the cut-off date for changes to this year's Address List.

In subsequent years, you will be able to indicate your participation or not on the annual subscription form.

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.

By: Kahlil Gibran (1926)

Emmaus

By: Philip Thirlwell

Weary our feet from the way,
as we were reaching the village.
Stars were faintly, timelessly telling
the passing of all things.

Hungry, we saw a wisp of smoke,
angry no more, we knew some peace,
warmly his words had opened our hearts.
Tentatively, we asked him in.
We had timed it well, the bread still warm,
the flagon speaking relief and pleasure.

It was the time for blessing
and "Blessed art thou" he began.
Blessed our feet and our hearts,
blessed the giver of all good gifts,
blessed our friend of the way,
blessed the scarred hands taking the bread.
Healed, our souls – and the sight and the words
stayed where he had stood.

Our feet again on the road
beneath the now-bright stars,
he seemed to run with us
and yet had outpaced us.
We found that our friends
had also been blessed,
and as the stars were moving on,
so he had pursued his way.

My Journey as a Novice

By: Peter Haynes

I am based in Adelaide and I was professed on the 10th October 1999. This took place on retreat at Sevenhills in the Clare Valley South Australia.

I came to know about the order when a poster appeared on the notice board in the narthex of my Church. Not knowing much about the order at the time I asked my Parish Priest what he thought. With his encouragement I contacted Colin Fidock who invited me to a meeting at his house, which I attended. It was an interesting meeting where all who were present made me feel very welcome, from memory it was about December 1996. It was then that I first came into contact with the order.

About 3 to 4 months later I was admitted as a Novice, from there on it was nose down to complete my formation training, due to circumstances beyond my control my first novice councillor was replaced by Colin.

As I completed my novice training my spiritual journey seemed to grow expediently to the stage where at my own cost and with the encouragement of my Parish Priest I commenced studying at the Adelaide College of Divinity in Adelaide. Due to my business commitments I can only do one subject per year. _____

New Mission and Social Justice Director

The Reverend Linda McWilliam

Excerpt from Anglican *Focus* Brisbane No 393, Page 15.
Congratulations to Reverend Linda McWilliam, on the appointment of Mission and Social Justice Director for Southern Queensland Area. Linda was previously the co-ordinating chaplain for Mission and Social Justice. She has graduate qualifications in counselling and more than 17 years' experience as a chaplain in healthcare. Linda takes over from The Reverend Canon Rod MacDonald who has taken up the position of Canon Missioner for the Townsville Cathedral.

THE MONASTERY AT STROUD:

Yesterday and Today.

By: Rosemary Christmas

In 1972, at the invitation of the Bishop of Newcastle Ian Shevill, a group of Sisters of St Clare arrived in Australia from Freeland, Oxford, England and were accommodated in the St Johns Rectory at Stroud. The number of Sisters grew and were in need of some long term larger accommodation.

The opportunity of building a monastery nearby emerged and the sisters' vision became a reality in 1980 with the help of many volunteers.

For SrAngela, who was a renowned sculptress and artist from her early years, the building of the monastery was a work of sculpture. "We built a mudbrick monastery and people come to it and pick up something that is imparted to them from the place ...It's got nothing to do with bricks and mortar ...it was made from the earth ... this place will live on whatever happens because love formed it".

"I long to see writers and theologians, artists and students coming to spend time at Stroud to study and work and to join in the rhythm of prayer and worship." (Quotes from the recent book "Sculptor of Spirit: Angela of Stroud." Faith Read)

By the year, 2000, for various reasons, there were no Sisters of St Clare in occupation of the monastery. Sr Angela had ill health and moved to America where she died in 2002.

The Samaritans and the Parish of St Johns took over management of the monastery to help until the Friends of the Monastery and the Management Committee was formed. The Samaritans still take the bookings for this "haven of peace and beauty". See Stroud@samaritans.org.au Phone 02 49607100
Income comes only from the bookings and the "Friends of the Monastery Stroud" membership.
Please help by becoming a member and receiving the Newsletter. (Annual Membership Fee \$21.00. Concession \$15.00 to "Friends of the Monastery Stroud Inc." PO Box 247 Cherrybrook. N.S.W. 2126.)

The Management Committee volunteers meet monthly to maintain the property and bookings under an agreement with the Society of St Francis Trust.

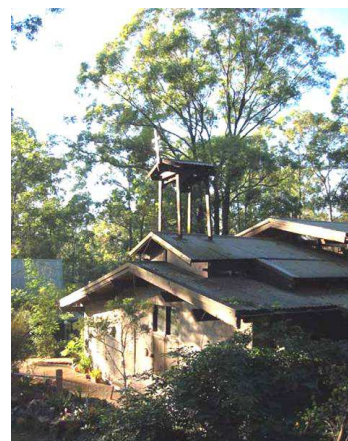
Since the 2nd Order Sisters of St Clare have gone, the 1st Order Brothers with the 3rd Order Tertiaries are now the caretakers for the whole property – a serious and important responsibility for Tertiaries.

Perhaps many Tertiaries do not realize that they are inheritors of this remarkable place.!

Such a unique retreat and centre is a marvelous legacy and one we need to nurture and treasure sharing the Franciscan world view of reverence for life and sustainability so needed for the world today.

Muddies Reunion at Stroud Monastery.

A celebration for all those who have had some links with the Monastery over the years and with some of the original "Muddies" will be held over the weekend 22nd to 24th November. Come for the Saturday or stay longer if you can. Bookings at Samaritans phone :02 49607100



From left to right are:-
Fr. John Gibson, Kathy Dunn, Rev. Theresa Angert-Quilter, John Quilter, Dr. Gemma Dashwood & Graeme Dunn.



Our Profession

By: Kathy & Graeme Dunn

Friday January 18 is a special day for Franciscans as it marks the anniversary of the First Franciscan Martyrs in 1220. Friday January 18 2013 was a special day in the lives and spiritual journey of three novices in the NSW B region.

Dr. Gemma Dashwood, Kathy Dunn and Graeme Dunn were professed as Tertiaries of the Third Order at a very moving and joyous celebration at Christ Church West Goulburn.

The Eucharist was celebrated by The Reverend Theresa Angert-Quilter (who is also Graeme and Kathy's Novice Counsellor).

The profession was conducted by Regional Minister Fr. John Gibson.

The service was very well attended by Third Order members from Canberra, family and friends of those being professed and members of the West Goulburn Parish.

Fr. John Gibson delivered the Homily in which he remembered the First Order brothers who were martyred in 1220 in Morocco. He related to the readings appointed for the day and how they do relate to us in the 21st century. Christians throughout the ages have been persecuted, sometimes violently and while in this day and age in Australia we may not face torture or death for our faith we can face ridicule, hostility or indifference. We should however in our time be out there promoting peace and goodwill.

Fr. John concluded by announcing to the three new Tertiaries that they are here today because they have been called by God to the Third Order and that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38).

Following the Eucharist a great time of fellowship was enjoyed with a bring and share lunch in the parish hall.

Franciscan & Holy Days To Note

June '12	13	Anthony of Padua
July '12	15	Bonaventure
Aug '12	4	John Vianney, Cure d' Ars
Aug '12	11	CLARE OF ASSISI
Aug '12	14	Maximillian Kolbe
Aug '12	15	MARY, THE MOTHER OF THE LORD
Aug '12	25	Louis, King of France
Sept '12	17	STIGMATA OF FRANCIS
Oct '12	3	Transitus
Oct '12	4	FRANCIS OF ASSISI

'Readings and other material for worship and devotion are in the Manual - Section F'



HILL OF CROSSES, LITHUANIA

The Hill of Crosses is located 12 kilometres north of the small city of Siauliai (pronounced shoo-ay) in the north of Lithuania, near the Latvian border.

Siauliai was founded in 1236 and occupied by Teutonic Knights during the 14th century. The tradition of placing crosses dates from this period and arose as a symbol of Lithuanian defiance of foreign invaders. Since then, the Hill of Crosses has represented a peaceful resistance of Lithuanian Christianity to oppression, first by the Russians in 1795 then by Germany in World War II, and then again by the Russians until its independence in 1991. Throughout these times, the Hill of Crosses has been a place of pilgrimage and a vital expression of Lithuanian nationalism even though the Soviets removed the crosses three times - in 1961, 1873 and 1975. The hill was levelled, the crosses burned or turned into scrap metal and the area was covered with waste and sewage. Following each of these desecrations local inhabitants rapidly replaced crosses upon the sacred hill and finally, since 1985 the Hill has been left in peace. The reputation of the sacred hill has since spread all over the world and every year it is visited by thousands of pilgrims. Pope John Paul II visited the Hill of Crosses in September 1993. Currently there are over 250,000 crosses on the Hill; We placed a cross there in May 2012 representing the Bathurst Franciscans. It is indeed a moving sacred place and well worth a visit should anyone find themselves in the area.

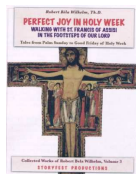
Congratulations and prayers from all the brothers and sisters of the Third Order.



The following were recommended for profession:
QLD A: Profession – Ivan McCulloch; Diana Brooks
NSW A: Profession – Carol Hucker
NSW B: Profession – Geoffrey Taylor
VIC/TAS: Barrie Cledsmith
SA: Lorraine Retallick; Vanda Walden
PNG: Erastus Sangara; Ismael Porengi; Selby Kavo; Arnold Hanupa; Ethel Slade Biga; Caswel Kogoropa; Charlott Paisa; Nigel Tauni; Rev'd Wilson Mekele; Cecil Kamanu; Bessi Peuba; Fred Gill Kokora; Rufus Kivaja; Barnabas Tago; Timothy Jiregari.

REVIEW: Robert Béla Wilhelm, Perfect Joy in Holy Week: Walking with St Francis of Assisi in the Footsteps of Our Lord, Storyfest Productions 2013 (Volume 3 of the Collected Works of Robert Béla Wilhelm).

Reviewed by Ted Witham



Dr Robert Béla Wilhelm was our keynote presenter in Third Order Confernece in Perth in 2006. People warmed to Bob and his gentle style of telling stories about St Francis. Quite a few Tertiaries have kept in touch with Bob since then. Bob’s style of story-telling moves me, sometimes to tears. I sometimes find them hard to read to others without tearing up. His story-telling evokes an emotional depth to help the listener connect with the richness of his stories.

Perfect Joy in Holy Week is a series of six stories about St Francis for the six days of Holy Week. Each story has a short version and a long version, and each story is introduced by the Scripture readings set for the Eucharist of the day and concluded with provocative reflections. These stories are accessible to anyone and speak strongly into anyone’s life.

The stories can be used in worship, particularly at an appropriate Eucharist, at an Area/Region meeting or in your private devotions. You can read or tell the story yourself, or, in the iBook version, hear Dr Wilhelm himself bringing these stories to life.

Bob is also an icon writer. Perfect Joy includes traditional icons and paintings as well as some of Bob’s own. So prayerfully are they written I find I have to look carefully to see which are the traditional icons and which are Bob’s.

The attention to detail in this book is obvious. He includes not only the lections for his home Roman Catholic tradition, but also the Anglican and ecumenical lections where they differ. Design values are high even in the E-book versions. The pages were lightly textured and the layout easy to use, colourful and easy on the eye.

While they follow the great events of Holy Week, the stories and reflections can still be enjoyed at any time of the year. Rae and I didn’t get around (typically) to using these stories until Easter week, but we still found them to be fresh, inspiring and encouraging.

The easiest way to obtain either a print or electronic book is by visiting the Storyfest bookstore at <http://www.sacredstorytelling.org>.

The Provincial Minister’s Visit to Queensland B Area

By: Gloria Malouf-Marsh

Among the various visits Colin made to the Queensland B Region, they included visiting Fay Manfield’s house, Bishop Godfrey Friar and Bronwyn at Longreach, Toowoomba for breakfast, the Brothers of St Francis at Annerley and St Francis College at Milton in Brisbane.

On Saturday the 6th April, Mass was celebrated by The Brothers and welcomed many tertiaries. The Brothers were very generous with their hospitality and extended their dinner invitation to us all. After Mass, some stayed for dinner. Among those were Glenys, Frank, Ross, Ruth, Margaurita and myself. We sat around the table sharing our faith journeys, Colin imparting his wisdom and knowledge of The Order and it was wonderful putting faces to names. What a joy it was for me being with my sisters and brothers; and being with like-minded people.

Subjects that were discussed around the dinner table were, how do we handle our journey right now - relationship on earth, how do we make a difference being a Franciscan, our challenges in life do not cease, God is using you as an instrument, and you may lead others to God being a Franciscan.

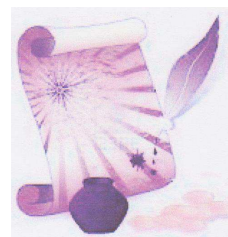
It was an inspiration listening to Colin’s wisdom. We are not leaders we are trusted servants.

Images of Clare

Excerpts from: “To Live As Francis Lived”,
By: Leonard Foley, OFM, Jovian Weigel, OFM,
Patti Normile, SFO.

Clare is referred to as the “little plant” of Francis. One can visualize a branch plucked from a plant and stuck in the soil to take root to become a plant of its own. So was Clare’s spiritual being rooted in Francis. Both of them were the branches grown from the Lord who proclaimed, “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5).

Christ is the mirror of God. “Mirror of Perfection” is a term used to describe Francis. And Clare was indeed a mirror of Francis. She caught what he taught by his way of life, then she sent it into the world through her sisters, her prayer, her writing, and the Order she established. You and I can become mirrors of Jesus, Francis and Clare in our own ways, in our own times.



The Feast of Pentecost.

The word Pentecost means fifty. The number fifty points to fullness, and ripeness. It is the old Greek and Latin name of the Jewish harvest festival. It is celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Passover. This is a time to celebrate the birthday of the Church. The color the churches use for Pentecost is red – a symbol of power and fire of the Spirit

This speaks of a time of grain harvest, bounty and thanks. This feast has three levels: A - The Harvest Festival: B - The Torah Festival and C - The Spirit Festival.

This is a time to celebrate our unity, to believe, to pray, to cast doubt aside, to love and forgive one another, and allow the Spirit to guide us daily.

Thank you to those who contributed to this Issue. I always enjoy hearing from you all and sharing your faith journey. The deadline date for The Stigmata/Franciscide Newsletter will be 20th September. I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,
Gloria

From the Editor,