

# THE THIRD ORDER:

## Australian Province Newsletter

Volume 7:3 and 7.4

Francistide and Advent 2006

The next issue of the Newsletter is due at Easter 2007. Please have all copy in the hands of the Editor by the first week in March 2007. Postal address is PO Box 604 Bathurst, NSW, Australia, 2795. Email address is [wgates@ix.net.au](mailto:wgates@ix.net.au), or phone the Editor, Bill Gates tssf 0409 157 144.

Editorial Note: In order to reduce costs each newsletter is restricted to eight pages. Since there was so much material from the Perth Conference there is little space left to include other items. I have therefore combined the Francistide and Advent issues. Pax et Bonum; Bill Gates, Editor.

### ST FRANCIS: PATCHED AT THIRD ORDER CONFERENCE

“Saint Francis – a Patch on a Hurting World” was the theme for the Third Order Franciscan’s Australian Provincial gathering in Perth at the end of September. About 60 of the Province’s 350 members gathered in Belmont’s Bel Eyre motel to worship, enjoy each other’s company and listen to two excellent guest speakers.

The Rev’d Canon Dr John Dunnill of Murdoch University unfolded the idea of sacrificial love, showing that Christ-like selflessness was far closer to the Bible than the ‘myth of redemptive violence’ which underlies much of the world’s pain today. In his three talks, John displayed his usual humour, humanity and ability to clearly explain theological ideas.

Our second speaker was Dr Robert Wilhelm from Washington DC. Bob had us spellbound with stories from the Franciscan tradition, particularly those that showed the ways Francis is a patch on the world. The tale of Francis’ childhood friends, the knights, bringing the dying Francis back to Assisi, illustrated that humility, not money or force, evoke a loving response.

We may never fully understand what it means to “feed our wolf”, but we will continue to have a vivid memory of Bob’s telling of the story of the Gubbio wolf and the conversion of the Gubbio people from pride to a fuller understanding of themselves.

Our Bishop Protector, Archbishop Roger Herft, led our opening Eucharist, and commissioned Ted Witham as Provincial Minister. Archbishop Roger preached on ‘leaving doors open’. We took his advice literally and left the doors of the conference centre open. Fr George Harvey from Bunbury had created a stunning worship space in the bland conference room, and the open doors invited several hotel guests to wander in and see what these Franciscans were up to.

On the altar was a cloth pinned together from imaginative patches that members had decorated to offer as part of the Conference.

It was also good to have representatives of the friars (First Order Franciscans) Brother Alfred BoonKong and Brother Nathan-James present for all of the Conference. Brothers Alfred and Nathan had been in WA for the two previous weeks visiting schools and parishes. Michael Maguire, the Regional Minister of the Roman Catholic Secular Franciscan Order, with his wife Angela joined us for our Final celebration Eucharist.

The Third Order met in Chapter to rejoice at its growth in Papua New Guinea, to support a new office of Franciscans International for the East Asian region in Bangkok, and to explore ways in which Third Order members can engage more dynamically in ministry with the whole Church.

God does not ask about our ability, but our availability.

Dear brothers and sisters

#### Conference

It was so good to see 60 of you at our Conference and General Chapter. Thanks again to the WA team, especially to David White and Flemming Beicher who provided the logistics and financial control, and to George Harvey who devised such a beautiful worship space within a bland hotel room.

People have commented to me on (a) the fact that we dedicated (to Saint Mary and the Angels) the worship space as a Chapel, (b) the clarity of John Dunnill’s talks on sacrificial love; and (c) how entranced we were by Bob Wilhelm’s story-telling.

Your Regional Minister has a CD of Bob’s stories and talks, and the printed version of John’s Bible studies will soon be available.

#### New Appointments

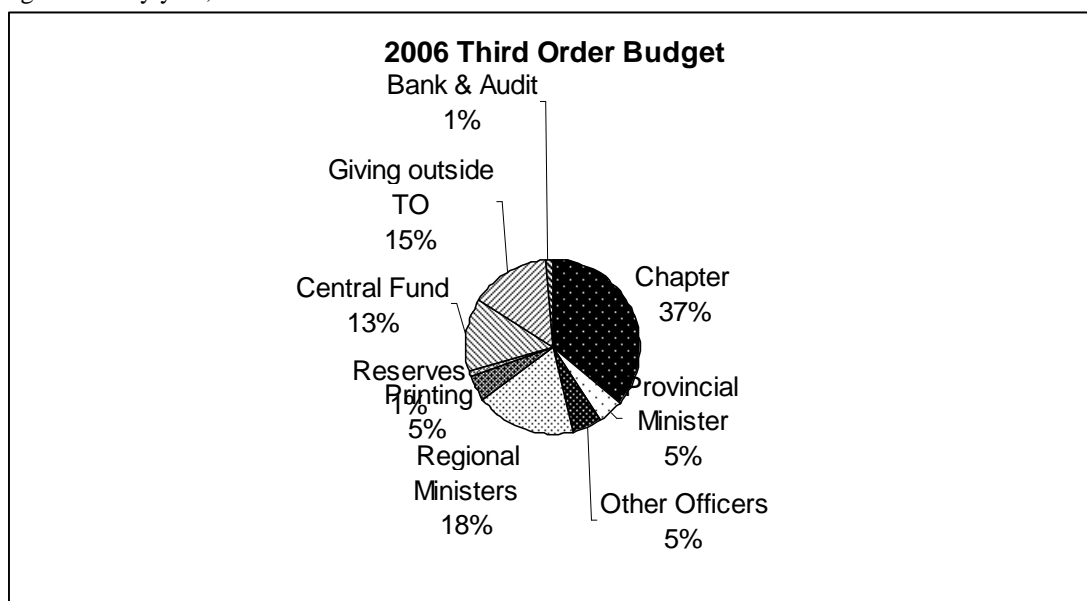
At Provincial Chapter, my appointments to Chapter were ratified: Sally Buckley becomes the Assistant Provincial Minister, David White is the new Provincial Secretary and Geoff Jordan remains our Treasurer. Once again, we thank Wendy Brack for her enthusiasm and hard work as Secretary.

Standing Committee will consist of the Provincial Minister, the Provincial Chaplain, the Treasurer and Helen Granowski. This group will meet to approve emergency finance and policy decisions, and will report to Provincial Chaplain any actions it takes.

#### Third Order Subscriptions

Chapter also voted to raise the subscriptions to \$80 (and to \$115 for couples who are both tertiaries). This is the first raise for quite a few years, and is necessary to meet our budget.

Costs generally have increased over the past few years. For example, 37% of the budget is required to gather Provincial chapter together every year, and air-fares and retreat house costs have both increased.



General Chapter voted to support the new office of Franciscans International in Bangkok. Our support will be \$1,000 per annum over the next few years, and this will help pay the rent and two full-time staff. I strongly support this initiative. It is one of the few direct contacts we in wealthy nations can have with the very poor – and this contact is central to our Franciscan calling. It is also great to work with the wider Franciscan family.

Our Treasurer also brought to our attention that last year we received only 75% of our budget for subscriptions. Chapter thought that there might be a number of reasons for this low return of subscriptions, but we had to confront the possibility that some members may simply be not paying. Your subscription, like the Community Obedience and the personal rule of life, are basic to your commitment to the Third Order. Paying our subs enables the Order to exist, and it also goes some way to satisfying our need to give and belong.

Chapter also emphasized again that you should talk to your Regional Minister if you are financially unable to pay your subscription and to work out a reasonable contribution for your situation. In addition, Chapter also authorised Regional Ministers to collect subs in instalments if that helps you.

When you receive your subscription form early next year, please do act on it straight away.

#### **Study and Youth Initiatives**

Sydney Tertiary Michael Giffin has developed a unit of study at Broken Bay Institute on Franciscan Leadership, which Novice Counsellors, Area Convenors and others may find useful. (Details at [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)). I am also working with Brother Donald Campbell and others on a more basic unit on Franciscan spirituality suitable for novices and all interested in our spirituality. Details will be available soon.

Chapter also appointed a small committee to work with Brother Nathan-James on establishing a 'Franciscan Gap Year' where young people could experience Franciscan community and worship, take part in service to the very poor, experience another culture as a Christian and gain a Certificate. I'll keep you informed.

Blessings of joy and peace, Ted Witham tssf, **Provincial Minister**

#### **Archbishop elect Philip Freier TOSSF has been elected by an overwhelming majority as the next Archbishop of Melbourne at a meeting of Synod members in August .**

I was invited by Archbishop Penman as one of four to review the electoral process of an archbishop and it was clear that the said Archbishop wanted an electoral Synod and the first such Synod met following his death. I have found each such subsequent synod a difficult experience but welcome our recent prayer and discernment. I enjoyed meeting and conversation with both Philip and Joy on a visit to Darwin several years ago and I remember that Joy most kindly drove me to the airport on my reluctant return to wintry Melbourne! Our Archbishop elect is 51 and has been the Bishop of the Northern Territory since 1999 having been ordained a priest in 1984. He has been Examining Chaplain to the Archbishop of Brisbane (1993-1999,) Area Dean of Burnett , Rector of Christ Church, Bundaberg and St Oswalds, Banyo in the Diocese of Brisbane.

He trained as a teacher and taught at Thursday Is, Kowanyama and Yarrabah . His qualifications include Ph.D from James Cook University, M. Ed. University of Newcastle ,B.D. Melbourne College of Divinity and Dip. Ed. University of Queensland, B Applied Science Q.I.T.

In the report presented to us as electors it was stated that he has provided strong Episcopal leadership and strategic thinking to a diocese with scarce resources and has encouraged aboriginal leadership and created conditions for both clergy and lay to be effective in ministry. His interest in theological education is evidenced by his role as Chair of the Board of Delegates of the Australian College of Theology since 2002. Not an easy task I am advised!.

We welcome him and his wife Joy to Melbourne, a diocese also financially challenged and appreciate that he states that "it is an absolute honour and privilege to be the elected Archbishop of Melbourne."  
Sue Chapman TOSSF

#### **Hurting hordes**

I am humanity: you say how unclean,  
when you look down long noses and pretend I am unseen.  
I've been exploited by you rich ones in your greed,  
and from in your high places you ignore my need.

I am the millions who starve in a great drove,  
not only from hunger: but of knowledge of God's love.  
You say it is Jesus you love with your whole heart,  
though if you don't love the most simple you haven't made a start.

Please don't turn your back if I am unsightly and I smell,  
or maybe I'm sick or blind or mentally unwell.  
Maybe it's my colour or my creed that is not right,  
but listen to me closely as I plead my plight.

I may be victim of a war I do not understand,  
or one of nature's catastrophes drives me from my land.  
No matter what the cause the cure's the same,  
something must be done in our Creator's name.

I am humanity and I cry out night and day,  
so I can draw my cause to light in even a small way.  
Perhaps I should cry louder though feeble I am and weak,  
I need stronger voices to join in as I speak.

To make my plight heard by hardhearted and the dense,  
who close off their minds and will not see the sense.  
So if there is any slightest thing; that can be done to help me,  
do not hold back but react to my plea!

© Nancy Dear 2006

*For some reason I felt sad that the church was doing this. I had seen old photographs of this Church filled with people cramming into its pews. Perhaps some of your grandparents, sat in those pews listening to life changing sermons and powerful verses of scripture. It seemed their pews were getting too old, chipped, needed new varnish, cornices were breaking off, they were too uncomfortable for delicate modern bottoms, impractical, they could not get them out the way if they needed to, took up so much space, and gave an out dated feel to the church.*

*But the very people wanting them out of their church were lining up to get their hands on one for themselves.*

A mediation on a Pew.

Do you ever go into a place, where you are withdrawn from the world?

Where you are alone with your thoughts. Where you let your mind move from the manic moment into still remembrances. Where your deep feelings find words and are transformed into prayer? Prayer in the silence of our mind seems to be one of the thing that we all share. We all yearn for this quiet space, this timelessness. I have often found this upon a pew in a quiet church. For a time in a place you are still while the world goes rushing on by

Rows upon rows that stretch out in that silent space. Lines of perspective going off into the distance, as each pew gets smaller gets smaller & smaller. The aged wood reflects beautifully the coloured light coming in through the stained glass windows.

Mediations on a Pew

Presented by Mr. Ian Randall  
St.Paul's Chapel  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006

#### **Introduction,**

*I wonder if you have hear it said "be in the moment." We Westerners are commonly criticised as never being aware of the present. We are either thinking about where we have just been or working through where we are meant to be next. We seem not to be able to focus on what is happening around us. At school the moment a bell rings you are no longer meant to be where you are so we are forever rushing on to catch up with ourselves. Today I want you to be, in this moment, to be still within yourselves, to think and to ponder with me.*

*We are all people of body, flesh & matter but we are also of spirit. If you consider yourself a Christian or perhaps even 'spiritual' I trust that this mediation or reflection will also have meaning for you.*

*Why a pew?*

*You sit in a pew each week and I bet you never give them a moments thought.*

*Pews have been on my mind recently. Several weeks ago I received a phone call from my Brother, who attends a particular Anglican church on Broadway asking if I wanted to buy a pew as his church was getting rid of them all and replacing them with individual plastic chairs.*

They are made simply from expansive lengths of timber from the tallest of trees. The ageless trees, who's roots dug deep and drew cool waters from the earth. Birds sheltered in their branches, from nest to egg to feather to flight. Part of earth's great cycle of life. The spring, the winter. Life & Death & Life.

Cut down by muscle & axe, milled with sweat, toil and labour, crafted and carved by the carpenter. Christ was a Carpenter, like his father Joseph. His hands were calloused by years of work, with the saw and hammer. Jesus felt the pain of the splinter, the strike of the hammer upon the thumb, became tired and thirsty. He would have crafted with care and built with love. I wonder if Jesus ever made a pew?

I have seen my own children playing games of chasing after church running in and out of the rows, weaving over and under, Like a labyrinth or a maze, but never getting lost.

They are designed to fit as many people in the smallest amount of space. I have mainly seen pews where followers of Christ have gathered. From small stone country churches to large city Cathedrals. In some places in the world pews are hundreds of years old. In many places they have remained unmoved for year upon year. As the lives of people come and go like the grass of the fields. They are never alone. Always together. And like God's people they are never quite lined up straight. They are present with their prayers, their songs and their lives.

In a pew, your presence is always welcome. Although the feel is cold to the touch it always warm up. You belong where ever you sit. An object in time that many others have occupied before you. What of the people who sat here? Consider them, you, me, a street person, the accountant, tradesman, widow, child, the happy, the sad, the lonely & the lost. The tears that were shed, the prayers that were offered. Or the school boy who etched his name in that timeless place.

Many who lived their lives are no longer here. Their days are spent. They too have shared your troubles and have also called out to the lord for comfort and strength. The countless numbers of people have sat where you are and the many more will follow you. The pew has become a seat among the saints.

I have seen Old Church pews in many other places too. In cafés, antique shops, kitchens, on verandahs, in hall ways. Their new owners lovingly restore them. A pew always adds a certain touch class, an historical aesthetic to a room. I recommend you find one for your home. See if you can find a church throwing them away, they don't want them or need

them anymore. A pew away from it's purpose, its people, its prayer, its place, seems sad to me. It tells me of an age that is no longer here.

We don't seem to be like Tokin's Elves . . . where their history seemed to stretch back before memory. Where everything that was made to last for centuries, where everything was beautiful and was always loved. Not our age. We see the world to be consumed. Did you know that PC stands for Plastic computer? We take, we use and we throw away. The world is groaning with the weight of our waste and the scares from all that we take. A mobile phone is old in two years. Mine doesn't even have a camera and the company that sold me it has changed its name to a number. No wonder we of our generation are so confused?

We like things new & modern and especially plastic. Is your Church going for that special plastic look? A plastic Jesus with a nice cheesy grin. I wonder will happen to the plastic chair? Will it be lovingly repaired and its scratches removed and placed in the hall ways of the future. I doubt it. No the plastic chair will also be thrown away, along with everything else we make in our generation. But we are not satisfied. Our generation is madly searching for God, for a real life, a real existence, for the real Jesus, for real peace, & for real love.

My Jesus seems a little more real a little more earthy, a little more human. When he washed the disciples feet I see him washing off real dirt, not stinking executive sweat. He spent his days with common people, and did not seek the acclaim of the rich and important. He loved the poor, the widow, the nobody of any importance. He loved the person that the world walked on by. He understood their lives, our lives, he was living a life himself. So not worry about your troubles, look at the birds and how I care for them. You are far more valuable than they.

When you sit in a pew perhaps feeling like you are nobody special, not up the front in a place where everybody can see your importance, know you are loved by God, most valuable, most important. Just as you are – Just like you are. Mediate on the world, see the marvels of creation, find a quiet place in your own lives and let your soul sing the praises of the Lord.

I hope you can consider some of these things the next time you sit down on a pew.

Thanks.

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Ted tells me he has pencilled a booking for the Monastery at Stroud from Wednesday 11 April to Sunday 15 April 2007.

“We will begin with dinner on the 11th and end after lunch on the Sunday. I look forward to spending the Octave of Easter with you.

Peace, joy and love, Ted”

**Subject: Franciscans International Poverty Questionnaire**

Franciscans International are conducting a poverty questionnaire. The editor has a copy of this questionnaire and will email it to all those who request it.

OR

to know more about Franciscans International you can visit their website: [www.franciscansinternational.org](http://www.franciscansinternational.org)

<<http://www.franciscansinternational.org>>

The Position Paper on Poverty that you may wish to help to define will also be posted on this website.

Address changes:

Bill Gates will be maintaining the official address lists, phone numbers, email addresses .

In future could all address changes, email information and the like please be sent to the newsletter editor, Bill Gates, either at PO Box 604 Bathurst NSW Australia, 2795 or sent to him directly by email [wgates@ix.net.au](mailto:wgates@ix.net.au)

David White will be handling information dealing with new members, enquirers and novices. When David has collated this information he will forward it to Bill Gates for inclusion in the master database.

For the present period please note the following changes.

From David;

Email change for Bill Pearson

Now: [billanon@dodo.com.au](mailto:billanon@dodo.com.au) <<mailto:billanon@dodo.com.au>> (Bill was with ISP kissme)

From Wendy;

**Novice**

Rev'd Brian Worth Unit 5/ 634A Barkly St Ballarat Victoria 3350 N 13/10/06 Vic/Tas

Tel: 03 5338 8439 Email: [brijo3@cbl.com.au](mailto:brijo3@cbl.com.au)

Clara Nordblum 9 Mimosa Drive Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 N 30/06/06 NSW B

Tel: 02 6925 0691

**Professed**

John Hawkins 13/10/06

Camellia Flangan 13/10/06

Jan McIntyre 13/10/06

**Addresses**

Sandra Beck PO Box 281 Inala Qld 4077

Barrie Cledsmith 2.56 Carlie St St Kilda Victoria 3182 Tel: 03 9534 3254

**Email**

Barbara Axten [baxten@optusnet.com.au](mailto:baxten@optusnet.com.au)

David White [tssf.perth@gmail.com](mailto:tssf.perth@gmail.com)

Dear Bill,

Here is the latest list of changes gathered from Chapter.

**Professed**

Donna Shapherd P 20/ 08/05

**Noviced**

Gloria Malouf-Marsh N 4/06/05

**Address**

Yvonne Riley 22 The Parkway Klemzig SA 5087 Tel: 08 8266 6636

Sherril Bryan 1/387 Macquarie Street South Hobart Tasmania 7004

David Chambers PO Box 219 Woodend Victoria 3442 Tel: 03 5427 4868

David and Audrey Edmondson Lenah Valley Tasmania

Maureen O'Neill 35 Mitchell St Esperence

Bert Muysers 1/32A Baldwin St Montmorency

John Silversides 17 Church St Bathurst 2795

**Email Addresses**

Margaret Barkley [magbann@optusnet.com.au](mailto:magbann@optusnet.com.au)

David Chambers [revdavid@tpg.com.au](mailto:revdavid@tpg.com.au)

David and Audrey Edmondson [daveandaud@optusnet.com.au](mailto:daveandaud@optusnet.com.au)

Eric Kluukeri [ericjk@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ericjk@optusnet.com.au)

Donna Shepherd [d.shepherd@patrick.acu.edu.au](mailto:d.shepherd@patrick.acu.edu.au)

Patti Singleton [davidpatti@optusnet.com.au](mailto:davidpatti@optusnet.com.au)

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Lee Steele [lee@richardsteele.com.au](mailto:lee@richardsteele.com.au)  
Frances Furner [framces@grapevine.com.au](mailto:framces@grapevine.com.au)  
Margaret Wark [margaret.wark@defence.gov.au](mailto:margaret.wark@defence.gov.au)  
Robert Willson [bobbeth@cyberone.com.au](mailto:bobbeth@cyberone.com.au)  
Pagan Richards [parishincense@bigpond.com.au](mailto:parishincense@bigpond.com.au)  
Jan Scott [jan.scott@swsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jan.scott@swsahs.nsw.gov.au)  
Robert Shepherd [bshepherd2795@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bshepherd2795@optusnet.com.au)  
John Candy [whitesta@bigpond.net.au](mailto:whitesta@bigpond.net.au)  
Anthony Halstead [anglicanwhitsunday@bigpond.com](mailto:anglicanwhitsunday@bigpond.com)

#### Telephone

Helen Barnard 03 9822 3156  
Eric Kluukeri 03 9593 1073  
Colin Valentine 03 5977 9573  
Jillian Farrer 02 6288 9191  
Robert McKennay 02 6266 4163  
Betty Daly 07 477321428  
Anthony Halstead 07 4945 1239

#### Change of Name

Cheryl Willis is now Charyl Smart  
Maureen Phillips is now Maureen Arnold or Dave (check with John Clarkson )  
God Bless, Wendy

#### New Novices

Michelle Blondel 2 Easton Rd North Ryde NSW 2113 Tel: 02 9456 2723 NSW A N20/05/06  
Margarita Fomaneg 23 North St Gatton Qld 4343 QLD B N 03/06/06  
Noel Hoffman 2/4 Fennel Court Morayfield Qld 4506 Qld B N 04/03/06  
Ross Holman 1 Gazelle St Everton Hills Qld 4053 Qld B N 03/06/06  
Bruce Martin "Harrington Park" 211 Rivulet Rd, Peel NSW 2795 NSW B Tel: 02 6337 6639  
N 17/8/06  
Valda Paradies 30 Justin St Toowoomba Qld 4350 Qld B N 03/06/06  
Margaret Wark 38 Cameron Rd Queanbeyan NSW 2620 NSW B N16/05/05  
( Sorry Margaret but I only just received your novicing date)

#### Professed

John Angert-Quilter P 15/08/06  
Stephen Howes P 17/08/06  
Marion Martin P 17/08/06

#### Addresses

Barry Paterson 20 Jirimandi Close Wonga Qld 4873  
Bill Guttormsen 114 Panorama Drive Thornlands Qld 4164 Tel: 07 3488 0695 Mob 0416 233 586

#### Received

From South Africa  
Alice and Rob Suttie 4 Eames Ave Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Tel: 02 8807 5628 NSW A  
Email [alicesuttie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alicesuttie@optusnet.com.au)

Greetings in Christ.

Please note my new email address - "geoff\_fayjordan@bigpond.com".

I have received the electronic copies of the Newsletter okay and look forward to receiving further copies electronically in the future.

Keep up the good work. Peace and every blessing. Geoff

Geoff & Fay Jordan, 15 Streeton Court, Morayfield Qld 4506

phone (07) 5497 9420, Email "geoff\_fayjordan@bigpond.com"

Meeting of the Provincial Chapter Perth  
25 to 27<sup>th</sup> September and 1st October 2006

**Chapter Members Present:** Ted Witham, Wendy Brack, Rosemary Bradford, John Clarkson, Helen Granowski, Cleone Rolf-Reardon, Michael Buma, Flemming Beicher, Vic Hall, Tony Hall-Matthews.

**1.0 Devotional** by Ted 1 Peter Chapter 2. 4 - 10

#### 2.0 Preliminaries

2.1 Wendy Brack was appointed as Chapter Clerk

2.2 **Apologies:** Geoff Jordan, John Baumgardner, Bill Gates

2.3 **Visitors:** Br Alfred and Br Nathan representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Order

2.4 **Greetings were received from:** Peter Lockyer, Dick Bird, Ken Norian, John Heberton, David Bertram, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Order brothers.

### **3.0 Provincial Minister's Appointments to Chapter**

**3.1 Assistant Provincial Minister** Sally Buckley Moved Tony Hall-Matthews, seconded by Helen Granowski Carried.

**3.2 Provincial Secretary** David White

**3.3 Provincial Treasurer** Geoff Jordan

These positions were ratified by chapter.

**3.4 Operating Standing Committee;** Provincial Minister, Provincial Chaplain, Provincial Treasurer and a Regional Minister – Helen Granowski.

**3.5 Management Committee, Friends of the Monastery:** Pirriall Clift. Chapter is to write to the Management Committee asking if the Regional Minister of NSW A can be an ex officio member.

**4.0 Minutes of Provincial Chapter** 30<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005. Read and accepted. Moved Wendy Brack and seconded by Helen Granowski Carried

### **4.1 Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) Profession of Jillian Farrer – later this year

b) IPTOC - removal from manual, sheet title Day 7 Love and Harmony

### **4.2 Formation – material and process**

a) Chapter encouraged Regional Ministers to confer with each other when novices or Professed Tertiaries move from Region to Region. Move Helen. Seconded Tony Hall-Matthews. Carried

### **5.0 Reports from Office Bearers**

**5.1 Provincial Minister:** See Ted's Reflection. Moved Vic Seconded by Rosemary. Carried

**5.2 Provincial Secretary:** Presented by Wendy. Seconded by Cleone. Carried

A formal vote of thanks was extended to Wendy for her work as Provincial Secretary during her term of office. Moved Vic. Seconded Tony. Carried

### **5.3 Provincial Chaplain**

#### **Report on PNG:**

a) Tony moved that Papua New Guinea be split into Regions in Formation around the areas of Popondetta and Dogura. Seconded John. Carried

b) Chapter was asked to endorse Eli Kombega as Regional Minister for the Popondetta Region in Formation. Moved Rosemary. Seconded by Vic. Carried.

c) Tony has sent a simplified version of our manual to the Tertiaries in PNG.

It consists of Community Obedience, the Rule, Principles, some Franciscan Holy Days, Day of Penitence, Order for Profession, Novicing and Renewals and other Prayers. This was first printed in 1999.

d) Tony moved that we encourage an experimental Third Order Community in PNG using Jean Isemba's convent with the Third Order Rule as a component of an annual celibacy vow. Seconded Helen. Carried

### **5.4 Provincial Treasurer's Report.**

Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> March was sent to all members. Moved Rosemary. Seconded Wendy. Carried.

Balance at the end of August. Income \$12074, Expenditure \$9512 Balance

a) Chapter ratified that when Provincial Chapter is being held in conjunctions with National Conference and General Chapter then the Chapter member pays the first \$300 of the travel cost and the balance to be met by the order.

b) Motor car reimbursement by based on the rate set by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. Moved Vic. Seconded Flemming. Carried

c) Tony asked Chapter to ratify his trip to PNG in December to profess 48 novices. This was subject noting however that there are no funds available for this trip.

d) Subscriptions for 2006 will increase to \$80 single and \$115 per couple. Moved John. Seconded Tony.

e) On the new subscription form there will be an extra line stating that subs can be paid by instalments in consultation with Regional Ministers. Moved Faith. Seconded Helen. Carried.

### **5.5 New Area**

Cleone moved that the area of the Diocese of Grafton in NSW A be a new Area but still belonging to Qld B. Cleone reported there are quite a few novices in this area and more inquirers. Seconded Rosemary

### **5.5 Regional Minister Reports:**

a) **Qld A** Vic reported on the 5 Areas and how the central Area meets for the year.

b) **Qld B** Cleone reported on her big area and the number of tertiaries involved.

c) **NSW A** Rosemary reported on the 2 Areas and the recent combine retreat held at Stroud.

d) **NSW B** John reported on the 3 Areas and what each one is doing.

e) **Vic/Tas** Helen reported on the 5 Areas and the combine meetings that are held and the 3 retreats.

f) **SA** Faith reported on her small number.

g) **WA** Flemming reported on their meetings, the enthronement of Archbishop Roger Herft Bishop Protector and the worked done preparing for the conference.

h) **Malaysia- Kuching** Michael reported on the members in his region.

- i) Br Nathan reported on his work with the web page. See separate sheet for submitting files/information for the web page.

Chapter endorsed that formal reports be sent to Provincial Minister before Chapter and that Regional Minister will limited to 10 minutes speaking time.

### **5.6 Regions in Formation PNG**

See Tony's report.

### **5.7 Newsletter Editor**

- a) Chapter requests that newsletter be limited to 8 A4 pages, 4 back to back. The Newsletter to be posted in a business-size envelope.  
b) Each edition to have limited colour and preferably in black and white pictures.  
c) Regional ministers will photocopy and distribute newsletters to Tertiaries with no email addresses or delegate this task as necessary. This edition will be in black and white.  
d) A colour edition can be sent to Br Nathan for the web page.  
A vote of thanks was expressed by Chapter to Bill Gates for his work in publishing and distributing the newsletter.

### **5.8 Printed Material**

- a) Chapter has asked Rosemary to ask Ian Randall and Paul Hawker to design leaflets, posters and letterhead in a more attractive style and format.  
b) Ted is to review F1 Franciscan Holy Days and where appropriate put in more detailed information for the saints.

### **6.0 Web Page.**

Br Nathan gave a report on his work so far on the web page and how to send files/information to be displayed there.

See separate page.

### **7.0 Address Book**

Keep correction and amendments up to date with the Secretary. Check each newsletter for the latest list.

### **8.0 Recommendations for Profession and Withdrawals.**

#### **a) Profession**

Elaine Jeston Qld A

Camellia Flanagan NSW A

Jan Mc Intyre NSW A

Eric Kluukeri Vic/Tas

Stephen Farmer Hong Kong

Burm Hur Hong Kong

Fay Manfield Qld B

John Hawkins NSW A

John Davis Vic/Tas

Selina Taylor WA

Simon Fong Hong Kong

Sunling White Hong Kong

For the 48 novices to be professed in PNG see Tony's report.

#### **b) Withdrawals**

Dorothy Daniels Qld B

#### **c) Novices not continuing**

Anne Watkins Qld A

Karl Van Rees WA

Janet Connelly Vic/Tas

All the above Tertiaries who were put forward by Regional Ministers on the recommendation of their Novice Councillors will be professed. Moved Helen. Seconded Sally. Carried.

### **8.1 Changes to Novice Counsellors**

- a) Qld B Remove Cath Holt add Bevan Meredith, Joan Owen, Peter Lockyer, Ruth Gillis  
b) NSW A Remove John Blakemore, Garry Dodd, Joan Russell, add Val Tibbey, Rosemary Christmas, Philip Thirlwell  
c) NSW B Add Robert McKennay, Lorraine Clarkson, Frances Turner  
d) Vic/Tas Add Denis Woodbridge  
e) WA Remove Ted Witham

### **8.2 Changes to Area Convenors**

- a) Qld B Brisbane Frank Peloe, Bundaberg Jenny Wedemeyer,  
b) NSW B Canberra Frances Turner  
c) Kuching Bradley Sangan

### **9.0 Religious Advisory Council**

Discussion was held regarding TSSF being recognised by the Religious Orders Advisory Council. Ted is to informally consult with Godfrey Fryar about the definition of an Order and what support the church might offer to TSSF by the church. Moved Vic. Seconded Faith. Carried.

### **10.0 Franciscan Celebration**

John Clarkson was asked to follow up on the information on the Year of Francis becoming a Franciscan Celebration in 2008. Recommendations to be brought to next Chapter meeting at Stroud.

### **11.0 Next Meeting**

#### **11.1 Voting right of Novices**

Novices can attend General Chapter this year but do not have voting rights.

#### **11.2 2007 Provincial Chapter**



a) Provincial Chapter for 2007 will meet at Stroud in April. Dates to be confirmed.

### **11.3 2009 Conference and General Chapter**

a) To be hosted by NSW A in Sydney

### **12.0 Franciscan International Bangkok Office**

a) Sue Chapman spoke to General Chapter about this initiative. She asked General Chapter to help fund the office for 3 years. Provincial Chapter decided to give \$1000 per year for the next 3 years to Franciscan International Office in Bangkok. Moved John. Seconded Michael. Carried

### **13.0 Provincial Chaplain.**

Chapter expressed its thanks to Tony Hall-Matthews for his role as Provincial Chaplain, especially the work in PNG and have extended his term for another 3 year. Moved Sally. Seconded Vic. Carried.

### **13.1 Commission for Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation**

Helen Granowski was nominated to provide information on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation to Chapter. Moved Sally. Seconded Vic. Carried.

### **13.2 Community Obedience**

Matter raised by Michael Giffin from NSW A regarding the words of the Blessing prayer, whether it should be "pray for us" or "pray with us". After much discussion on this sensitive issue Chapter decided to defer any decision.

### **13.3 PNG travelling Fund**

Tertiaries are to be asked to support PNG travelling fund by way of donation so 48 novices can be professed in December if possible. This will be mentioned in the newsletter. Moved Helen. Seconded Faith. Carried

Chapter closed with the Daily Office and grace.

### **Submitting Files for Web Page from Br Nathan**

1 **files in** - Microsoft Office suite products (word, excel, power point, publisher)

- Adobe acrobat (pdf files)

2 **Pictures** – JPG (most preferable) or GIF. **NOT** Bitmap (BMP)

- Resolutions for web viewing only not printing. 75- 100 dpi is sufficient. For printing 150-300 dpi

3 **Vectors** (line art) eg logos, usually very simple outline drawings, preferably in EPS (encapsulated post script font)

4 **Scans** – scan documents according to final output ie for web viewing 75- 150 dpi or printing 150 – 300 dpi

5 **Email addresses** – use signature on all correspondence, put email addresses and web site ([www.tssf.org.au](http://www.tssf.org.au)) on pamphlets and other advertising. Also make sure [tssf.org.au](http://tssf.org.au) link to web site.

- still need web master up to date with your actual addresses

6 Send local areas information through Regional ministers, eg news, events, photos, resources you want to share with both public and other Tertiaries.

7 Use web site as repository for documents eg novice notes, manual, form, address books. Password controls will be used for documents restricted to specific Officers.

8 Make use of email lists/discussion forums for communications eg could have TSSF update list (or news, lists) passed around quickly by emails.

### **General Chapter held Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 in Perth**

#### **General Announcements**

a) Assistant Provincial Minister – Sally Buckley

b) Provincial Secretary – David White. Chapter thanked Wendy for her work as Provincial Secretary over the 3 ½ years.

c) Provincial Treasurer – Geoff Jordan

d) Standing Committee ( to make emergency decisions) Provincials Minister, Provincial Chaplain, Provincial Treasurer  
Regional Minister- Helen Granowski

e) New Area Diocese of Grafton under Qld B

f) Correspondence Course on Franciscan Spirituality and Leadership through Broken Bay Institute - Suitable for Novice Counsellor and Regional Ministers. Contact Michael Giffin email [michaelg@spanielbook.com](mailto:michaelg@spanielbook.com). Br Donald Campbell, Ted Witham and other are developing a course on Franciscan Spirituality also to be offered through Broken Bay Institute.

g) Provincial Gift to Philip Freier- elected Archbishop of Melbourne. Gift to be decided after consulting Bishop Freier.  
Each Region to send donation to Provincial Treasurer

h) Membership Subscriptions – \$80 single and \$115 per couple

i) Lapel Tau cross brooch – Sally to order these from England

j) Region to be added to the departed Tertiaries on each day

k) **PNG** to be a Province in its own right. Idea expressed from the Tertiaries in PNG. After much discussion it was decided that we will still continue to them financially but let them move towards their own Province in their own way. Let them have their own subs for their own Province. They would still be part of the Australian Province for the time being. Ask the Province of Americas how they incorporated Brazil into their Province.

l) Challenge for Retired Clergy to teach for 4 -6 weeks at Theological Colleges in PNG and make contacts with Tertiaries.

m) **Youth** Lots of discussion on how to attract young people to the TSSF with the First and Third orders working together.  
Br Nathan talked about offering a course based on our principles of Christian living and study to student in the gap year between high

school and university where Government financial support could be granted. A pilot group of Dawn Curry, Br Nathan, Ted Witham, Rosemary Bradford and Selina Taylor.

Other suggestions were

Make connections to the local schools.

Invite young people to a retreat

Publish suitable material for schools

Young people to be Companions and not Tertiaries with a yearly commitment, not Life.

Tertiaries were encouraged to send age appropriate material to Jenny Wedemeyer

o) Micah Challenge – writing letters to Federal members stressing our stand against poverty and injustice in the world.

p) Franciscan International Office to open in Bangkok. The Australian Province was asked to help support it financially for the next 3 years.

q) Sally moved a vote of thanks to Val Tibbey for her work as Provincial Minister for the last 7 years.

#### PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT, PERTH SEPTEMBER 2006

This report covers the period from April 2005 to September 2006.

The last 18 months has been another busy year for the Third Order with the election of a new Provincial Minister, Ted Witham. First would like to thank Val for her support during our term together as Provincial Minister and Secretary and I wish Ted a successful time for his term as Provincial Minister. To the Regional Ministers who keep me up to date with the relevant information of new novices and other changes that take place in their region. A big thank you.

The Principals for daily reading were reprinted in first person and distributed during the year. I hope you are enjoying using them.

The society has seen a steady growth during the year. I have sent out 25 novice kits, to all regions except South Australia and Queensland A. There have been 7 professions. Congratulations to our new novices and professed Tertiaries.

The total membership is 353, 244 professed and 109 novices. Many of the novices are in PNG.

The printing of the address book has been enormous task. Not only keeping up with numerous changes that continue to take place but also trying to fit the number of Tertiaries into the 30 days without making the book too big or the print too small.

The use of electronic mail has been the most effective way of communicating with Tertiaries. Please keep your email address up to date with the Provincial Secretary.

I would to thank Bill Gates for the job he has done with the newsletter. Also a big thank you goes to my school for allowing me the use of their equipment. Without this, there is no way that I could do the job of Provincial Secretary.

As this is my last report as Provincial Secretary I would like to thank all tertiaries for their support during my term as your secretary and I wish David White a rewarding term.

Pax et bonum, Wendy Brack , Provincial Secretary, 19/09/06

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I spoke to John Dunnill about his talks at the Conference and whether he would be happy to send me a copy of his notes to send out to you all. He said he would consider it, but currently they are hand written notes and quite extensive and he wasn't sure if he would have time to get them in some sort of order. I am still hoping!

He did say he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, interacting with us all and staying on for Bob's talks as well. I will continue to follow up with him. Peace, joy and many blessings

Sally

Revd Sally Buckley tssf, Parish Priest, Anglican Parish of Esperance, Western Australia

Ph: + 61 (0)8 9071 4564 / 0408 714 564, [frsall@westnet.com.au](mailto:frsall@westnet.com.au)

Dear brothers and sisters:

Bob Wilhelm, our guest speaker at the Conference in Perth, has uploaded all his talks to the internet. You will find them at <http://www.patchonahurtingworld.info/>, where you can download the talks as mp3 files.

Otherwise, you can obtain the CD from your Regional Minister.

If you were at the Conference, the talks are worth re-visiting. If you weren't, the talks were excellent, and you can feel that you were part of the Conference by listening.

Bob also gives details at [that address](#) of how to buy his book *Secret of the Heart* in Australia. (Just scroll down to the bottom).

Peace and joy, Ted

**THIRD ORDER S.S.F. - AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE**  
**PROPOSED BUDGETS for 2006 & 2007**

Column 1 BUDGET ITEM	Column 2 BUDGET 2005	Column 3 ACTUAL 2005	Column 4 ORIGINAL 2006	Column 5 FINAL 2005	Column 6 NOTES	Column 7 INITIAL 2007	Column 8 NOTES
<b>INCOME</b>							
Subscriptions	\$13,760.00	\$10,620.00	\$14,000.00	\$13,450.00	based on 192 @ \$55 & 18 @ \$90	\$13,700.00	based on 2006 budget + 2%
T.O. Offerings	\$1,030.00	\$975.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00	based on 2005 actual	\$1,020.00	based on 2006 budget + 2%
Novice Kits	\$275.00	\$425.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	based on 2005 actual	\$410.00	based on 2006 budget + 2%
Publications - Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Bank Interest	\$300.00	\$211.59	\$350.00	\$720.00	Figure should include interest from Term Deposit	\$750.00	based on 2006 budget + 5%
Expenses Contribution				\$600.00	assumes some expenses will be returned as donation	\$600.00	
Credit Balance carried forward	\$4,387.00	\$4,387.00	\$3,561.00	\$0.00		\$68.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,752.00</b>	<b>\$16,618.59</b>	<b>\$19,511.00</b>	<b>\$16,170.00</b>		<b>16,548.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
Provincial Chapter 2005	\$4,300.00	\$6,947.90	\$4,200.00	\$5,500.00	reflects policy to pay full costs	\$5,500.00	reflects policy to pay full costs
Provincial Minister	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	\$750.00		\$750.00	
Provincial Chaplain	\$500.00	\$481.88	\$500.00	\$400.00		\$400.00	
Provincial Treasurer	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$50.00		\$100.00	
Provincial Secretary	\$425.00	\$332.25	\$450.00	\$335.00		\$350.00	based on 2006 budget + 5%
Provincial Archivist	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Regional Ministers	\$1,400.00	\$566.97	\$1,400.00	\$2,800.00	based on 7 @ \$400 each per annum	\$2,800.00	based on 7 @ \$400 each p a.
Intra-Provincial Travel	\$1,000.00	\$172.60	\$1,000.00	\$500.00		\$600.00	
Postage	\$800.00	\$372.90	\$750.00	\$400.00	reflects increased use of Email to send material	\$400.00	
Printing	\$570.00	\$655.50	\$550.00	\$700.00	reflects increased use of Email to send material	\$700.00	
Newsletter Editor	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00		\$20.00	
Novice Counsellors	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00		\$20.00	
Publications Officer	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00		\$20.00	
Tithe	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,232.00	10% of 2005 actual income. See Explanatory Note 1	\$1,300.00	
Provincial Chapter Reserve Fund	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	
Central Fund	\$1,500.00	\$1,765.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,050.00	set @ 872GBP by IPTOC in Sept 2005	\$2,050.00	set by IPTOC in Sept 2005
Africa Travel Fund	\$521.00	\$1,000.00	\$521.00	\$915.00	set @ 4400ZAR by IPTOC in Sept 2005	\$915.00	set by IPTOC in Sept 2005
Franciscan Aid	\$1,000.00	\$736.00	\$1,050.00	\$315.00	In 2006 = \$500.00 See Explanatory Note 1	% of Tithe	In 2007 = \$550
1st Order SSF	50% of Tithe	\$550.00	50% of Tithe	% of Tithe	In 2006 = \$232.00 See Explanatory Note 1	% of Tithe	In 2007 = \$390
Developing Regions Support Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Ecumenical Outreach Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Franciscan Federation of Australia	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$20.00		\$40.00	
Bank Charges	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$200.00		\$200.00	
Auditor	\$770.00	\$770.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	see Explanatory Note 2	\$200.00	
Reserve Holding	\$2,526.00	\$2,576.00	\$2,500.00	\$68.00		\$133.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$19,752.00</b>	<b>\$20,767.00</b>	<b>\$19,511.00</b>	<b>\$16,170.00</b>		<b>16,548.00</b>	

**EXPLANATORY NOTES - 2006 / 2007 Proposed BUDGETS**

**Columns 2 & 3** Compare the final actual 2005 figures with the 2005 Budget accepted by Chapter.

**Column 4** Shows the initial draft of the 2006 budget accepted in principle by Chapter at its meeting in 2005.

**Columns 5 & 6** **Set out the final proposed budget for 2006**  
**This is the budget Chapter is asked to approve.**

**Column 7 & 8** Sets out an initial draft budget for 2007.

**NOTE 1.** **2006 TITHE** - Is set at 10% of the previous year's income.  
In 2005, total income was made up of - Subscriptions \$10620 + Donations to the Third Order \$975 + Bank Interest \$721.42 = **\$12316.42**  
In 2005, Bank Interest was made up of - Operating A/c = \$211.59 + Term Deposit = \$509.83.  
Thus the 2006 Tithe is \$1232.00. The Suggested distribution is -  
Developing Regions Support Fund = \$232  
1st Order Australia = \$500.00  
Franciscan Aid = \$500.00

**NOTE 2.** Because of changed procedures in administering Central Fund and African Travel Fund, the number of overseas transfers of funds is expected to be reduced resulting in reduced bank fees.

**NOTE 3.** **% of Giving as proposed in 2006 Budget -**  
The proposed 2006 Budget provides for 15.3% of the total 2006 income to be given away to the wider work of the Order.  
Total Income comprises -  
Subscriptions \$13450  
Third Order Donations \$1000  
Bank Interest \$720  
TOTAL = \$14270.00  
  
Total Giving comprises -  
African Travel Fund \$951  
Franciscan Aid \$500  
1st Order \$500  
Developing Regions Support Fund \$232  
TOTAL = \$2183.00

**NOTE 4.** **The proposed budget for 2006 and these Explanatory Notes should be read in conjunction with the Provincial Treasurer's report to the 2006 meeting of Chapter.**



Provincial Treasurer  
January 2006

## **PROVINCIAL CHAPLAINS REPORT 2006**

The Society of St Francis, in the spirit and teaching of our founder, makes it clear that any position of leadership is expressed by the word “minister” from the Minister General to Provincial Ministers to Regional Ministers. One could understand that all members of the Society “minister” to one another. Of course the Latin origin of “minister” means “a servant”. We often feel in the Church that pastoral care and administration are very different, and yet the root word for administration is also “minister”. So it means that whether we are involved in pastoral care or in administration we are all servants to one another! That certainly makes our Society different from the way the Church works with a dichotomy between pastoral care and administration. Take a bishop’s pastoral staff or crozier; some say it is a symbol of jurisdiction which is about power and administration, while others say it is obviously a symbol of pastoral care. It is so important for us to be servants to one another.

During this past year I have been more involved with regions in formation than in Australian matters. I was able to attend a retreat in Townsville, but I have not been anywhere else in Australia.

### **Korea**

I heard from Christopher John SSF at Canterbury last year that the Tertiaries that are listed in our prayer cycle have dropped out. One of my daughters is fluent in Korean and I had hoped to have gone up there with her and find out what is happening in the Tertiary world there, but that was not possible this year. Graeme Webb was in Korea, and I understand he has left. He is a New Zealander.

### **Singapore**

I visited Singapore on my way to IPTOC last August. Our three Tertiaries are very mature. I was with them when they renewed their vows. I spoke at the Cathedral at a weekday service and two enquirers came forward, however I haven’t heard what has happened since then. It appears difficult for the Singaporeans to feel part of the Singapore/Malaysia Region.

### **Hong Kong**

On the way back from England I preached at St John’s Cathedral in Hong Kong on the ministry of the Third Order. I am waiting advice from Novice Counsellors about the election to Profession of our four Novices, Simon Fong, Stephen Farmer, Burm Hur and Sun Ling White.

### **Papua New Guinea**

I have visited PNG twice since the last Provincial Chapter. In 2005 I was there for two weeks from 13 – 27 July. I was at Popondetta for five days during which time a meeting of fifteen Tertiaries was held over the weekend at Haruro Friary, where we also visited the Community of the Resurrection Convent where I preached.

During our meeting it was deemed that the Popondetta Diocese and the Dogura Diocese should be two Regions because of there is very little contact between the two Dioceses because of distance, terrain and no road access. The meeting elected Eli Kombega to be the Regional Minister of Popondetta as a Region in Formation until Chapter forms a new Region. Discussions were held between Tertiaries and First Order Brothers about PNG becoming a new Tertiary Province. It was too early for any conclusions to be reached.

Unfortunately my visit to the Dogura Diocese in 2005 did not enable me to go beyond Alotau. I stayed at the Friary at Ukaka, not far from the town. However five Tertiaries were able to be with me, two from parishes nearby and three who had come from Cape Vogel about 150 kilometres away via a lot of walking and on a dinghy. It was then that I discovered that the Tertiaries in that Diocese had not seen any Novice Formation Notes, nor did they have copies of Statutes or the Community Obedience. Most of them had the Prayer Cycle, sent to them by Wendy, the Provincial Secretary. We planned for a Convocation to be held at Uga near Cape Vogel during Francistide. This was initiated by the Tertiaries and ultimately twenty-five Tertiaries attended, but unfortunately they were all Novices and could not elect a person to be Regional Minister in Formation for Dogura.

When I returned home I prepared a shorter form of a Manual, the Principles and Novice Formation Notes. All these were sent by mail for distribution at meetings prepared at Uga and Popondetta at Francistide.

After further correspondence early this year, I planned to spend a fortnight in each of these regions, including a lot of teaching sessions with reference to the information that they would have received. I was in PNG for 28 days in July 2006. I spent two days in Port Moresby where I had further talks with Bro Clifton Henry with reference to the First Order assisting with the pastoral care and novice counselling for Tertiaries. He informed me that the Province of the Pacific was being divided into the Province of PNG and the Province of the Solomon Islands. He agreed that the formation of a Tertiary Province of PNG would seem to be a possibility with the First Order Brothers assisting and working more together. It was also opportune that he was going to be in Popondetta for most of the time that I was there.

The meeting at Popondetta was held at Eli Kombega’s home near the village of Urio south east of Popondetta. I was welcomed by Eli’s parents and other dancers in a traditional Oro welcome. Twenty six Tertiaries had gathered for the meeting where we spent a whole week together. We had two very solid teaching days sorting out the meaning of the Principles. Every day Morning and Evening Prayer were said (with some of the canticles sung). We worked out a way of putting the Community Obedience into the Daily Office and decided that we would include the Offices in the shared Community Obedience in that Region. Exemptions would be available. There are people who may not be very literate but know the canticles etc of the Offices!

We went in to Popondetta a few times which gave me a chance to see other Tertiaries who could not come to the Convocation, and also to meet the new Bishop, Joseph Kopapa. Our Tertiary Jason Evari is now in charge of the HIV/AIDS promotion and care in Popondetta as well as working at the Cathedral. Six Novices had walked for two days from Ambasi further up the coast. They asked if their Professions could take place at Ambasi so that the people up there could witness it and find out what the Tertiary ministry is.

On Saturday 15 July I left from Oro Bay on a coastal boat for Cape Vogel. We arrived at Tufi after dark and it was decided to stay the night tied to the wharf as the wind was up and a lot of reefs had to be negotiated, so we all slept on the seats. We set out at daybreak and called in at a number of villages including Wanigela and arrived at Trakwaruru on Cape Vogel in the evening. Here I was met by a large party of traditional warriors with bows and arrows and long black palm spears. In this re-enactment I was defended by the Tertiaries. I was challenged about what I was doing landing at their village. I responded by calling out the prayer, "Lord make me an instrument of your peace..." Immediately all the aggressive noise quietened down, and by the time I finished the prayer, many of the people were joining in, including some of the warriors!

All of us who were visiting Tertiaries stayed in an old Mothers Union House where we slept on the floor. I stayed on Cape Vogel for ten days during which we had two full teaching days and visited a number of villages, and with St James Day coming up we walked to Mukawa, where a mission was founded by Samuel Tomlinson in 1898. Eight hundred people turned up for the celebration. There I stayed with one of our Tertiaries Morrison Kadada. I preached at the Eucharist on St James Day.

There were twenty Tertiaries at this meeting, with a number of people asking to become Enquirers including quite a lot of Companions of the First Order. During one workshop we had Companions in a "role play" asking all sorts of questions about what is so special about being a Tertiary and what do they do. This opened up a lot about the importance of taking vows and committing oneself to Franciscan ministry. Again this meeting felt that Community Obedience should include Daily Offices. Throughout all the village churches the Offices are said even if there is no priest.

After three days at Mukawa, we organised a dinghy to take us to Dogura, further down the coast. The Area Convenor, Lawrence Yakawa was appointed to go with me from here on. After an early start it took us all morning to get to Dogura powered by a 40 hp outboard calling in on a few villages. We stayed with our Tertiary Bishop, Telita Talanoa, and planned for the Professions of the Novices at Makuwa on Sunday 10 December, to fit in with the Professions in Popondetta on Sunday 17 December.

We had to leave at four in the morning by dinghy so we could catch a PMV at a village adjacent to Alotau to save us going around into Milne Bay where the weather at that time of the year is very rough from the winds of the South East Monsoon. It was a clear night with starlight from the sky and "starlight" from the sea with plankton being disturbed by the wake of the dinghy! I stayed at the Ukaka Friary and celebrated St James Day with them on Sunday before leaving to go home.

### **Third Order Regular**

An interesting situation exists with one of our PNG Tertiaries, Jean Isemba. She was Professed in 1999 and soon afterwards felt she was called to a life of celibacy as Franciscan. With her family she has a house which is called "Little Portion Convent" near Agenahambo in the Popondetta Diocese. She was referred to the CSF and Sr Ruth from San Francisco came out to visit her a couple of times. She went to San Francisco for about six months early this decade and she suffered severe culture shock and did not want to go outside.

At IPTOC in 2005 I spoke to both Sr Ruth and Sr Joyce, who is the Minister General. The prospects for Jean did not look good as CSF could not release sisters to go to PNG. Sr Joyce did not think it was practical for Jean to come to San Francisco again and test her vocation. Jean was offered three options from Sr Joyce.

- Continue as a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis and try to interest other women of the Third Order in PNG who might be attracted to the idea of sharing Franciscan community life with you permanently or for shorter times.
- Join the Melanesian Sisterhood or the Sisters of the Church in the Solomon Islands to test a vocation with them.
- Learn about living the religious life by spending at least a year with either the Melanesian Sisterhood or the Sisters of the Church in the Solomon Islands and then try to set up a new form of Franciscan life in PNG. Both of these communities have close contact with the SSF brothers in the Solomon Islands. By staying in the Pacific, culture and language would be closer to your own. You would be able to learn from the experience of women who are already living the religious life in the Islands.

I spoke to a Roman Catholic man who is a member of the Third Order Regular at IPTOC and I received a copy of their revised rule. I gave a copy to Jean but it was a bit complicated. As a matter of interest all the RC Franciscan Orders who are not Clares actually are Third Order Regulars. So I got in touch with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, and they don't have a convent on PNG. There is another one but that is in New Britain.

This matter was discussed at the Convocation at Popondetta and at Cape Vogel. It appeared that we could set up a Third Order Regular using the vows of the Third Order with an addition to enable people to take a vow of celibacy once a year. One thing Jean is wanting is an established a Franciscan "Sisterhood, taking the veil". I would be happy to move a resolution that we establish an experimental Third Order Regular in Papua New Guinea using Jean's Convent with the Third Order Rule with a component of an annual celibacy vow. This fits in closely with the culture of the Melanesian people where there is a strong obligation for people to marry.

### **NOVICES TO BE ELECTED TO PROFESSION FROM PNG**

#### **DIocese OF DOGURA**

Those noviced on 4-10-2002; ADIA Mr Clement Gill ARIGIWA Mr Carson,  
BOGEA Mr Dixon DAMORE Mr Shem KADADA Mr Harold Morrison  
KAIBO Mr Basil KATURA Mr Remigius KERINA Mr Alfred  
KOUGA Miss Josephine (noviced 12.08.04), MABIRA Mrs Evangeline (noviced 18.11.01)  
MABIRA The Rev Geoffrey noviced 18.11.01), MUDUMATANA The Rev Nicomede n 13.01.02)  
NANASIA The Rev Bevan (noviced 16.12.02),

The following were noviced on 4-10-2002.

RUPUSINA Mr Anselm, SAKWARETA Mr Desmond, SIBUREWA Mr Champion

SIMOKUA The Rev Taylor, SIROPA Mr Lionel, TALANOA The Rt Rev Tevita  
 TOROMATA The Rev Kipling (noviced 13.01.02), TUBIRA Mr Leonard (noviced 14.10.02)  
 WARIKOA Mr Alwyn Clive (noviced 14.10.02), WAVERE Mr Eliud (noviced 25.12.02)  
 YABABANA Mr Bartholomew (noviced 14.10.02), YAKAWA Mr Lawrence (noviced 14.10.02)  
 YAUMO Mr Stanislaus (noviced 12.08.02)

**DIOCESE OF POPONDETTA**

EVARI The Rev Jason (noviced 17.09.01)

The following were noviced on 04.08.01

BORABA Mr. Maxwell, BUIEBA Mr Gordon, GIBOBO Mrs Maria, KAGANI Mrs Julian  
 KUKUMA Mr James, NATOPO Mr Gordon, OJARIEMBO Mr Wilfred, ORARI Mr Roderick,  
 SIYEGA Mr Byron.

The following were noviced on 09.12.01

BIAMRU Ms Junior, DAUMA Mr Jimmy Roger, EWA Mr Raphael, GIBOBO Mrs Maria  
 GOMBERA The Revd James, GONINI Mr Bendick, GONINI Mr Jeffrey, IMAGA Mr Sweedon  
 PUIEBA Mr Cedrick, PUIEBA Mr Romney, SANANA Mr George, SARUKA Miss Rhoda

**Conclusion**

Encouraging our Tertiaries in PNG has been difficult and there has been a lot of concern about which way we should go. I can only thank first the Tertiaries in PNG for taking up the initiative that was given to them and deciding that the Franciscan Ministry was the way to go to enhance their spirituality and the on going work of the Anglican Church of PNG. I also thank those who have claimed by faith that our Lord would show us the way, and also for those who have been generous enough to enable the cost of supporting PNG to be sufficient.

It has been a great joy to share the pastoral care of the Third Order in the Australian Province with the Minister Provincial and the Regional Ministers.

**Anthony Hall-Matthews**



Sally and Patches



Commissioning of Ted W.



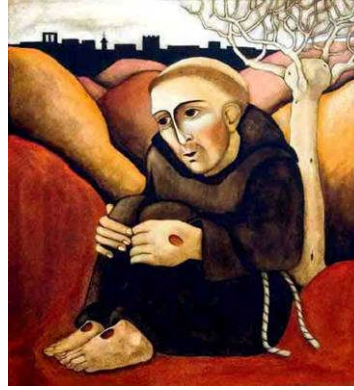
Bob Wilhelm – Guest speaker



John Dunhill - Bible Studies



Sally and Patti



*Happy Saint Francis-tide to all Sisters and  
Brothers of the Franciscan Family  
from the Franciscan Federation of Australia  
2006*

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