

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



14th

June, 2024

Letter 227



As noted in the last newsletter, we celebrated JD's birthday. Our custom, begun by Kevin Hennessy, is to present the birthday celebrant with a very ordinary tee-shirt. In Kevin's time, size didn't matter, so when TJ (SM) received an XL shirt it was no surprise that it was never worn! TJ did try on Luke's tee-shirt on the occasion of Luke's birthday and it came to just below his knees!



We also celebrated Luke's 30th and Raphael's 42nd birthday and birthday on Sunday night. Of course Rafael and Luke both received tee-shirts, as did the postulants. Our BBQ meal was primarily for our departing postulants Hail, Thang and Cu'ong, and Thang spoke beautifully on their behalf.



This is the link to the song 'Mystery of the Habit' Thang wrote, and the three postulants sang on Sunday. It relates to he and his brothers receiving the Passionist habit next month, at the beginning of their novitiate.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pa4bn0pCtIkukIRUqhQMYKib7zgywroX/view?usp=drivesdk>

Tri school retreat



Last week Tom Warren (manager of the Passionist Youth Retreat Team) led a three day retreat in Warburton for Year 12 girls from OLMC Heidelberg Tri attended as a small group leader. Because I was invited to celebrate the closing Mass I was able to see clearly that the teachers and students had really appreciated the experience, and Tri's contribution and his relationship with staff and students was greatly valued. At the same time, Luke Bulley led a retreat for the other half of the year Year 12 class (about 80 students).



These two retreats are part of 120 retreats the PYRT will conduct this year. More than 30 retreats will be offered in Melbourne. The Team will engage with about 15,000 students in mostly Catholic Schools (but also works in Anglican and Non-Denominational Christian Schools). The focus of the retreats built on a long tradition of Passionist Youth Retreat ministry, is aimed at growth in the personal, inter-personal and spiritual spheres, and are widely appreciated.

At my request, Tri shared something of the experience in his own words..."It was a



great experience for the youth. Our purpose for this retreat is to help students better understand who they are in relationship to others and God. I am not an OLMC teacher nor a retreat conductor. This allows me to come to the students as a friend, which all the teachers want to do, but cannot do in their position. I am a group leader in the sessions of the retreat, just like all the teachers, helping students to understand the concept of the sessions given to them. Outside of the sessions, I tried to connect with students by playing games with them, having meals with them rather than with the teachers, speaking with them, taking time to learn their names, and being silly with them. By being a friend to them, I gained their openness. The students shared with me the person they want to be and their plan for the future.

This is the only picture I had in the retreat, playing on the giant swing. I had not played on anything like that before. To be honest, I did not think that I would play on it, but the students wanted me to do it. They encouraged me, 'br. Tri, you can do it.' Of course, I did not want to let them down, so I did it. For me, it is not merely a game. It was a way of opening myself to the invitation of others.

It allowed me to become one among the students. It is when I showed the authenticity of my person; a Passionist with a strong faith in God. Faith did not separate me from this world, but into the world. I am the salt and leaven. Some of these young people have heard about the Catholic Church and about God, but their faith in God has not yet really convinced them. I thought, by playing games with them, I brought them the authentic faith of a follower of Jesus. Faith brings joy and happiness, compassion and connectedness”.



You are most welcome to attend Tri’s final profession on July 12th at 7.30pm. Tri is one of seven siblings. Two of his younger sisters are religious. He is awaiting confirmation that his parents, one of his sisters who is a member of the ‘Lovers of the Holy Cross’ and his youngest brother, will be awarded a visa and be able to be here to witness him making this lifelong commitment.

As the invitation indicates it will help with us catering for supper if you could indicate your intention to attend.

Erick in Hobart

Erick accepted an invitation to assist our men in Hobart. Last weekend. There is a regular supply the men do in Smithton, in the north-west of Tassie, about five hours drive from Hobart. The first mass is at 5.30pm on Saturday. There were about 17 parishioners. The first Sunday morning was at 8.30am in Stanley, 22 kilometres east, right on the sea. There were 16 attendees. Among them was a man who had lived in

Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe about ten years ago, and another person who was baptised in St Brigid’s parish and grew up in Marrickville. Sunday Mass at Smithton was at 10.30am where there were 34 attendees. Among them Erick met a couple who had lived in Box Hill, near YTU (Albion Rd) until during COVID lockdown! After Mass, at 11.15am, a family who left Victoria during COVID and never wanted to return, took Erick out for lunch and to show him around, which was very kind of them. Erick got back to the presbytery at 5.30pm! All



these people have come to the northern part of Tasmania and found a home that is too good to let go.

It was very cold, but a calm and fresh atmosphere. It has been said that “people are often very nice, until they are not, but these folk told Erick, “that second part hasn’t happened here yet.” They recommended that he eat more in order to keep warm. He said, “I’ve been looking for an excuse to eat more all my life! He added, “this place, although it has a small population, is large in area and in heart. It reminded me of Holy Cross.”

A Team

We have had a very generous response to assist the ‘A Team’ with the various maintenance issues they attend to each Friday. Expanding the team will assist with the task and allow some larger jobs to be done more quickly. This is just one way our community so generously supports not only the resident community at Holy Cross, but the worshipping community as well. Thank you.

Mowing



Thankfully we also received a response to the request to assist with mowing the larger sections of the property. With the postulants imminent departure, looking after the inside as well as the outside, will be more demanding for us, so having assistance with the lawns will be greatly appreciated..

Worth watching



Forty fingers: Sounds of Silence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOd6QAuK2YE>

Denise and Stefan: Climb Every Mountain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=URnA_ItRhFE

Thirsty Lions outside the tent

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Su3gruRXPw&pp=ygUZbGlbnMgbGljayB3YXRlciBvZmYgdGVudA%3D%3D>

The Use of our Properties

The Passionists have a property in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart, Port Moresby, two in Melbourne and two in Vietnam. We have a community in Hobart, but if the Passionists leave there, the property returns to the Archdiocese.



The total value of our properties would be impressive, but for the simple suggestion of 'selling something' in order to raise funds, there are two obvious responses:

- a) our commitment to the local communities and parishes in these locations,
- b) the financial cost to relocate, and the ministerial 'cost' or loss.
- c) selling to raise some funds would result in us being in the same position as now within a few short years and with one less property.

We have been advised to think creatively and bravely about how best to use our houses and their surroundings, so that we can establish suitable regular income to meet our costs, which continue to rise with the need for employed staff (25% of our costs) maintenance of our properties, and to meet the needs of our growing numbers in Vietnam.

Provincial Budget

Our Province Finance Committee has advised that the Province must generate annually, an additional one million dollars (\$1million) to:

- (i) meet our expansion needs
- (ii) to balance our annual budget requirements
- (iii) to ensure our safe passage into a more viable future.

Our financial advisers suggest that failure to achieve this would lead us to bankruptcy within ten years. Because we are going backwards each year, we have to find a way to create this income. Our communities have been asked to consider all our locations,



but for our purpose, it would be helpful to focus on Holy Cross, and if we have time comments about other properties can be received.

For us to think about possibilities can raise anxiety levels and concern. That is not the purpose of this exercise. Many details such as the need for necessary studies,

feasibility of rezoning, costs of development and costs of alternative accommodation will need further professional study. We have been suggested to consider at least three options. They are sure to be more:



a) Stay onsite, rezone and sell (or lease) available land to the side (where we celebrate Christmas) and depending on other options, we might consider, some of the oval.

b) Enter into a joint venture on underutilised sections of the Centre and part of the grounds. for compatible uses such as aged care. Such an option could extend to include repurposing of existing HCC space and buildings. Build a purpose built new residence for the Passionist community on site or elsewhere.



c) Sell the property. Relocate to a new site.

d) Consider an alternate use for the HCC that would involve better income and less expense

We will hold two 75 minute consultative sessions in the chapel, to which you are invited. Please choose whichever session time suits you

Thursday June 20th 10.30am-11.45am

Saturday June 22nd 11.00am-12.15pm

Refugee Week (June 16th-22nd) Andrew Hamilton SJ

When we think of refugees it is easy to be overwhelmed by numbers and bad news. Nine million people, more than a third of Australia's population, have been driven from home in Sudan, a whole nation has been displaced in Gaza, people have fled violence, starvation and poverty throughout the world, and governments in wealthy nations have increasingly treated refugees as less than human.



Bad news comes in floods that can leave us despairing or apathetic. The 2024 theme of Refugee Week invites us to reflect on family and finding freedom. It draws our minds and hearts away from the tyranny of numbers to the lives of the women, men and children whom we call refugees. It invites us to see them from inside. We

may then listen to the stories of their flight from the places and communities they called home. We may be awed by the passion for life and freedom that led them to

seek life elsewhere, may celebrate the resilience that they have shown as they walked such a hard road, and may wonder at their devotion to family in the face of all the crises that test it.



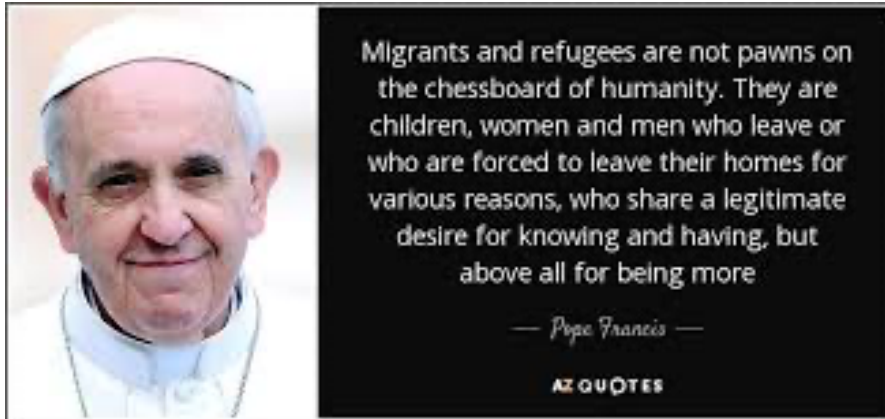
We may also celebrate the kindness of strangers whom they met along the way: the people who offered them shelter and food, who welcomed them, helped them to settle in a strange new country, and reached out to them in friendship on their long journey. These are the gifts that we would like our families to receive in hard times. They are also the qualities that we would like think are characteristic of our own nation. Refugee Week invites us to celebrate them in those who treat others, not as strangers, but as sisters and brothers in the world family.



When we enter the life of refugees from within and see their extraordinary stories of suffering, resilience, love of family and the importance of small gestures of kindness in their lives, we have a lens through which to judge the rejection of them by wealthy nations such as our own. Dumping them in poor nations such as Nauru, PNG and Rwanda, threatening to deport them or seize them out of our community and lock them in internment camps, arranging to deport their family members if they do not agree to leave our nation voluntarily, belong to a horror show of human meanness.

This Refugee Week, however, is not a time to curse the darkness. There is enough of that in our world. Refugee Week is a time to turn our eyes to the myriad lights that shine in refugees' eyes, to the candles of their generosity of spirit in the face of so much rejection, and to the pools of light surrounding their families. It also calls us from cursing the darkness to light our own candles lit as we reach out to people who seek our protection and as we plead their cause





Many readers will remember these men who lived and studied at Holy Cross. At the back is their new formator, Paul Vuong. The seven students represent two classes. In **class one** is **Vinh** (third from the left) who has just graduated from the Jesuit College and will now prepare for ordination as a deacon. His classmates are **Peter Danh** (centre) and **TJ** (dressed gold). Peter left on Monday for seven weeks apostolic experience in Port Moresby,. He is the first Vietnamese Passionist to visit and work in PNG. TJ is having some extensive (and uncomfortable) dental work done, so he will have his pastoral experience locally.

On the far left is **Phuc** and next to him is **Cau**. They have just completed their third year of theology – one year to go! The other two in their class, are **Thang** and **Toan** on the extreme right. It is good to see them all together.

Women deacons issue

By Jean-Paul Vesco OP (Archbishop of Algiers)

What seems unimaginable today will become natural tomorrow



On May 21st Pope Francis confirmed the exclusion of women's diaconal ordination from the scope of discussion at the Synod on Synodality in the Catholic Church. At least three reasons can be considered for this.

1. The pope's responsibility as the ultimate guardian of the Church's unity. It is his role to assess the Church's "elasticity" in its vast geographic, historical, cultural, and ideological diversity. The reception of the document on blessings showed the extreme difficulty of now having a single audible word across all continents, given the diversity of societies and the church's relationships with each of these societies.

The pope is both a member of the Synodal Assembly and in a position of authority relative to it. It is an advantage to feel, in each Synod, the Holy Father's will to steer the church in a given direction. But on this path, we must walk together, often at the pace of the slowest. The appreciation of this pace falls under the pope's own responsibility.



Regarding the burning issue of women's place in the life of the church and the gap with their place in society worldwide, Pope Francis's pontificate has shifted lines that were difficult to imagine being moved.

The horizon unfolds as we walk, and what seemed unimaginable yesterday, like the appointment of women to the highest responsibilities in the Roman Curia, has become natural today. Likewise, what seems unimaginable today will become natural tomorrow.

2. The central question of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is the backbone of the ecclesial body we form. Does this backbone limit the body's growth, or does it hold it upright in its uniqueness? Deep divisions over the answer to this question are not hard to foresee. We all aim to change our bodies, to slim them down, to strengthen them, but we know that we cannot change bodies without changing our identity.

In opening the Sacrament of Holy Orders to women through diaconal ordination, does it represent a healthy work on our ecclesial body, or does it amount to an impossible body change? The Holy Father seems to have opted for the latter. One thing is certain: no substantial evolution on this issue, as on others, can dispense with in-depth reflection on the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Is everything in it intangible and set for eternity? A backbone accompanies the growth of the human body. If it blocks growth, it renders the whole body disabled.



3. Was Francis seeking to combat the risks of deviations inherent to what he calls clericalism, to which male exclusivity is not unrelated. The composition of the synod and its way of working, as well as its expression, ensure that any third Vatican



Council will not be modelled on Vatican II, where the major directions for our church for the coming decades would be developed among bishops alone. This (r)evolution has profound implications for the role of the laity, and thus also of women, in the Catholic Church. In his response to the American journalist who questioned

him, the Holy Father reminded us that “women have always had the function of deaconesses without being deacons!” Indeed, women have not waited for the sacrament of the diakonos, the servant, to assume the bulk of the minor and major services in the Church!

One service is still denied women — preaching the Word in its most precious and most common setting, the Eucharist (Mass). Many women have an education equal to or superior to that of clerics. We know perfectly well how to maintain the symbolic link between the altar of the Word and that of the Eucharist when the main celebrant does not preach. How can we then justify expressing only male sensibility in the commentary on the word of God during the Mass? How can we justify denying women the opportunity to hear this Word resonate in their hearts? I hope the time has finally come to open this service of the Word to trained laypeople and, thus, also to women.



Humour



- Dad, are we pyromaniacs? "Yes, we arson"
- What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled
- Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm
- If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price
- Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on
- A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around
- I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene
- Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars

- How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer
- The best way to get back on your feet is to miss two car repayments
- Never trust an electrician with no eyebrows.
- I just burned 1,200 calories. I forgot the pizza in the oven.
- I relabelled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

I asked a supermarket employee where they kept the canned peaches. He said, "I'll see" and he walked away. I asked another and she also said, "I'll see" and she walked away. In the end, I gave up and found them in aisle C.

A guy walked into a lumberyard and asked for some 4 x 2's. The clerk says, how long do you want them? The guy answers, a long time, we're going to build a house.

I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two (2) places. He told me to stop going to those places.

When I was a kid, I used to watch the Wizard of Oz and wondered how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got Facebook.

Driver: What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?

Officer: Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle.

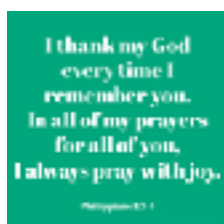
Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased especially **Marissa Micelotta's father** and those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially, **Francis Curtis** (12th June), **Leonarda Stanghi**, (13th June), **Phil Zaia** (14th June), and **Carmel Coates** (18th June).

I only learned last Sunday that **Pat Bond** had been in hospital for a week and in rehab at Donvale for two weeks. A Bakers Cyst had added to her troubles and she said "You wouldn't wish that on anyone because of the intense pain. It was good to see her on her return home and to see Gerry in typical bright form.

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

Lorraine Gill, Adrian Woon, Ann Burke, Margaret Enriquez,
Maree Bartoli, Tony Tome, Robyn Burns, Paul Darbyshire,
Mary Dunn, Carol Battistella, John & Maeve Reardon, Pam Storey,



Gerry Bond, Ann Burke, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Phil Drew, Alexander Lim, Monique Hardinge, Michael O'Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Greg Agosta, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Shirley Barnes, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Chris O'Toole and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

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

Thank you

Brian

