

Holy Spirit Province

BULLETIN

Date 30-11-18



Dear Brothers,

Fr Kevin Hennessy CP

Kevin is recovering as expected from the very major surgery, he is gradually regaining strength. He has been transferred to Donvale Private Rehabilitation hospital

The surgery was successful, but cancer was found in the spleen. The surgeon's initial diagnosis is that the cancer is manageable and will respond to chemotherapy once Kevin has recovered his strength. They said it was a similar type to that which Simon O'Donnell the cricketer had many years ago, hence their positive assessment.

Once the wound and surgery is further healed and the site more accessible, further tests will be done to determine whether there has been any spread of the cancer beyond the spleen

I know you will all keep Kevin in your prayers. He is very grateful for the prayers so far and asks you please to continue the prayers, please

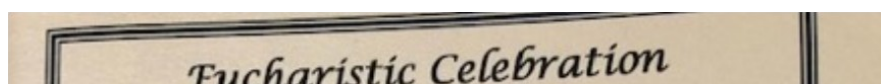
Kath Featherstone – Lay Missionary

Fr Jeff Foale alerted us to the death recently of Kath Featherstone, in Darwin on October 31st. Jeff heard the news from her twin sister, a Josephite, Sister Maureen in Wilmington. Port Augusta.

Jeff wrote that : Kath (Kathleen) was one of the first two female lay missionaries in our mission. They had very thorough preparation from Fr Xavier Bates in Hobart. She taught at Lote, Ossima and Kambratoro between 1964 and 1970. She was 80 years of age.

Our work in partnership with the laity, much discussed in the Assembly just finished, goes back a long way.

Sr Angela Dance LCM



*of Thanksgiving
for the life of
Sister M. Angela Dance LCM*



*Sacred Heart Church
New Town, Hobart*

19 November 2018

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all our Communities in Australia, and then from Vietnam, PNG, New Zealand as well as Tanzania, China and Philippines. We were very aware of those unable to be with us in person, but who were with us in spirit and in prayer.

There were 48 of us attending, of whom 20 were deacons, finally professed and temporary professed students, novices and a postulant. The eldest, Fr David was 90. The youngest was Br Luke at 24. The presence of our younger brothers brought home clearly to us all the changing nature of our Province. At every table, we older religious were in the clear minority. Also deeply impressive was the respect and real eagerness with which the young men listened and learned and shared – as also the deep respect which those older listened and learned from the new generations of our SPIR province.

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Our facilitator Peter Cranko lead us with a sure touch through the discussions. He also listened deeply and intelligently, processing what we said and reflecting back the themes, commonalities and shifts in our thinking.

We spent the first day working through the document you received called the Charter, with its 12 Statements of Intent – the vision of where we want to be. He reminded us that in our first Assembly and Feedback we had analyzed our Current Reality. Then through the work of the subsequent Writing Group, we had outlined our Vision. He explained the creative tension these provided and that was at work – the reality and the vision drawing us forward.

The second day we worked through the second document you also received containing the Approaches, the Outcomes and the Next Steps need to implement the vision.

Each was full on, -refining, changing, amplifying. The Charter, the Future Vision, was affirmed by the Assembly. The work going forward will dig even deeper and further articulate the greatly complex challenge ahead.

Our next gathering will be the pre-Chapter Assembly in April 2019.

A New Mission in Vietnam

Our ministry in Vietnam has been a reality for 13 years now. Firstly because community IS our mission – the witness of our life and live and fellowship as a community together. Formation has been our second fundamental mission and has been gradually growing, maturing and become better structured over these years.

Also our students have been engaged in an enormous variety of missions among the poorest of the poor in Vietnam, as well as Youth and Catechetics in parishes surrounding our Saigon houses.

Our more recently ordained deacons have worked and lived in diocesan parishes in dioceses in and outside Saigon. Fr Trực is still working in a parish in Cần Thơ diocese moving down towards the Mekong Delta.

The Bishop of Cần Thơ has now accepted us to establish our first community also in his diocese. After all the consultations and advice from our senior religious in Vietnam, I have agreed with their advice to appoint Fr Kiệt and Deacon Vương to a parish in the diocese.

Fr Jeff wrote in explanation:

Wednesday, 28 November 2018



Dear brothers

I write to you with joy as I share with you what is happening in the Diocese of Cần Thơ.

On Tuesday 2 October Fr Kiệt and I visited Bishop Stephano Tri Bửu Thiên in his office in Cần Thơ. Our seniors group in Vietnam and the Provincial Council in Australia were hoping that I might be able to find a bishop who would welcome our Congregation to stay permanently in his diocese. I decided to start with Bishop Thiên, who has been a good friend to us.

After we had greeted each other I spoke to Bishop Thiên about the work done by our deacons and students in the diocese over the years, especially with Fr Việt, in Bau Sen, Cà Mau Province. We remembered the sad fact that the civil authorities had not allowed Fr Trực to take up his appointment there, and the fact that the Bishop had given us a different parish assignment for him in Sok Trang Province. The Bishop knew that all along we had been hoping that he would one day assign a parish to us, a Passionist parish. But he never made any promises. So, I put the question straight, “Bishop,” I said, “is it possible for the Passionists to have a long term future in your diocese?” The poor man smiled. Really I had been impertinent, pushing hard. There was silence.

Suddenly I felt compelled to speak. Perhaps the Holy Spirit took over. I talked Passionist identity, Passionist charism. I told the Bishop that the idea of a parish is not the most important thing for us. I talked about the wonderful Passionist spiritual centres I have visited in the past few months in Melbourne and right across the United States. If we were in charge of a parish, I told him, it would become a spiritual centre, a place of prayer. We would work to make it a centre for prayer, for retreats, for spiritual direction, for priests and people. Suddenly Bishop Thiên became excited. "Yes, he said, there is a place where you could do that. It is not too far from the city. It is possible." This was very promising, but still just a little bit vague. We thanked the bishop warmly, expressing our hope that something could really be arranged.

We left the Bishop's house happy and went on our way to visit Fr Trưc in Cái Quanh Parish. Soon after we arrived there the bishop was on the phone, excitedly asking us to come quickly to meet him. He told us to drive to Cái Tắc Parish where the Parish Priest is Fr. Thomas Ho Thanh Minh. When we arrived he invited us to jump in his car and head to the chapel at Phú Khởi. It is an outstation of Cái Tắc parish and is located on Highway 61B about 20 minutes from Cần Thơ city.

Bishop Thiên wants the Passionists to take care of the chapel at Phú Khởi. He is ready to appoint a Passionist to be Assistant Pastor in Cái Tắc Parish, but to live at Phú Khởi and take care of everything there. It was clear that he could see that the Passionists could contribute something of great value to the spiritual life of the diocese, of clergy and people.

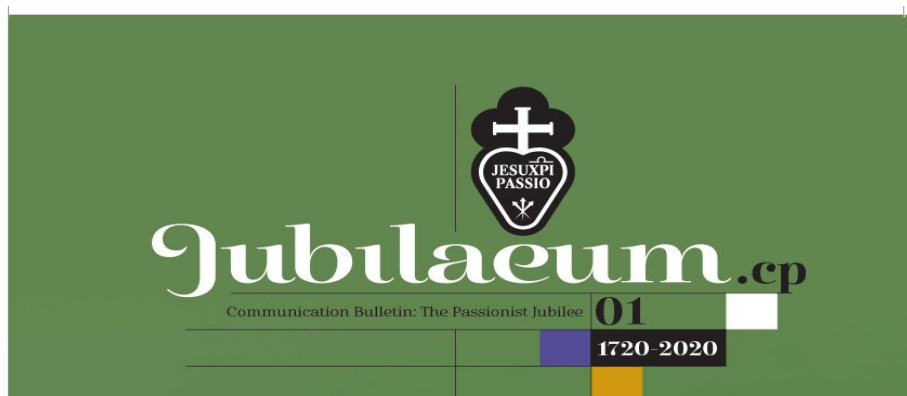
The Provincial, Fr Tom, has written to Bishop Thiên accepting his offer and he has nominated Fr Kiệt for the Bishop to appoint him Assistant Pastor, and he has appointed Brother Vưong to join the community. I spoke to the Bishop after he received Fr Tom's letter and he was very happy to know that we are coming soon to take up this work in his diocese.

Our understanding with the Bishop is that we will begin step by step to make that little chapel at Phú Khởi a place of prayer, not only for the 141 parishioners, but for the whole Diocese.

For thirteen years the Passionists in Vietnam have been mainly a seminary group, recruiting and training our members, while dreaming of mission, of one day going out to live among the poor to give the treasures that we have, to serve with our hearts and hands, to give witness. When we finally had Vietnamese members ordained and ready for mission, it began to seem that nobody wanted to open the door to us, not to anything permanent. But suddenly now, a door has opened wide and we have a wonderful opportunity to do our thing as Passionists, to preach the good news. We are hardly ready, but with God's grace and the support of everyone, we can begin, step by step, as the Bishop says.

In the Passion of Jesus
Jefferies Foale CP
Superior

Our Passionist 300th Jubilee. A New Resource



Our various communities will be receiving a new publication sent from our Generalate to help us prepare for the coming 300th Anniversary of our Congregation in 2020. This publication, Jubileum, will be sent a number of times each year.

The journal can also be accessed at on our Passionist Congregational Website:

http://www.passiochristi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Boletin01Eng_opt.pdf

Deacon John Lin CP

Our brother John has finally returned to His country, China, and his Province, Korea. He has been a delight in community and will always have a place in our province life.

He wrote this reflection:

Coming close to the end of my time living at Holy Cross, I want to write a short reflection on my experience of being a Passionist student at Holy Cross.

Everything firstly starts with the desire of the heart , so also my Passionist Journey. I met the Passionists in China. One of the most attractive aspects of Passionist life is the community life. Passionist brothers were living in an apartment; they were just like a family, eating together and praying together. My heart was deeply touched by their way of living, simple, but also very rich. The Passionist life has really met the longing of my heart ,a longing for the deep meaning of love, support and spiritual life.

With that desire of my my heart , I started my Passionist Journey and came to Australia. The Holy Cross Center is the place where the desire of my heart has been nourished. All those five years living in the Holy Cross Center, I have come to understand what love is. Love is such an ordinary life experience, however with challenges. For me, my experience of love in this community is the experience of passion. It is about heart stuff: compassion, understanding, respect and acceptance. By the experience of love, I am

growing in my true self. That enables me to love others. True love sets me free as it really touches the desire of my heart..

Support is another great gift which I have received from this whole community. The experience of being supported makes me realise that on this journey, I am never alone. For most people, being supported could be just an ordinary part of daily life, however, for me it is a huge thing. Coming from the cultural background where everything is more centralised, at family, school or community, others possibly make decisions out of their interest for me, but most times my ideas are not considered.. Therefore, there is not much experience of being supported in being true to myself. However, in this Holy Cross community, I have experienced the deep support from all of the community members. People have very much appreciated me for being whom I am and supported in various ways. Without their support on this journey, I couldnot have had this wonderful life experience at Holy Cross.

The Holy Cross centre provides a spiritual home for me as well. I have very much enjoyed living in the holy cross centre. It is a beautiful place to live and surrounded by a beautiful natural environment. One of the most enjoyable things is that the environment at Holy Cross brings the chance of solitude. This environment of solitude brings me into deep awareness of the presence of God. I used to think that it would be wonderful, if I could find a place with open space and only me with a book and a cup of tea. Just to sit here and enjoy the reading in the silence, and listen to God's voice. At Holy Cross, I have found this kind of place. Holy Cross is a which place enables me to have deep connection with contemplation. Through this contemplation, my heart finds God.

Lastly, I want to thank for all who have been part of my journey and supported me so much. I am so grateful for what I have received from various people who are so generous with their time, finance and love. Thanks very much!

John Lin CP.

In Christ Crucified
Tom cp
Provincial Superior