

Holy Spirit Province

Message of the Provincial Superior concerning the bushfires in Australia



January, 2020

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family

To all affected by the bushfires – you are not alone!

We are all actively engaged in supporting every family affected by the devastating fires, and all those who are fighting them. For many of us responding to appeals and the offering of our prayers and concern is all we can do. Letting those affected know they are not alone is all we can do.

Many of us have a personal connection through family or friends in the areas where the fires are raging. Through our Passionist Family Groups we also have a personal connection – they are present in a number of the regions under threat or already destroyed. But our hearts are with everyone already affected and still at risk.

In our communities and parishes, we have been offering prayers and Masses. Our parishioners and Mass communities, Passionist Companions, and Family Groups have been involved in appeals and fundraising. We have been involved in collecting food and clothing and care parcels. St Anthony in the Fields, birthplace of the Family Groups, are having a massive appeal this morning for supplies for families and friends.

I have received emails from our Passionists around the world asking how we are and promising their prayers. While our own Passionist retreats and properties are not in danger, a number of the religious have families whose homes are at risk. Others have family members who are part of the firefighting service and volunteers. They are grateful for the messages of support and the promises of prayer. As happens so often, times like these bring out the very best in people.

With such difficult and dangerously uncertain times still ahead, we continue to do what we can, along with the rest of country. And whatever needs to be done, I know we will do our best to do it together.

In Christ Crucified

Tom cp

Fr. Thomas McDonough
Provincial Superior