

NO MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Due to the absence of the Provincial in connection with this year's meeting of the Order's major superiors in Rome the Provincial Council did not meet in October. Nevertheless there are a number of events that need to be communicated – thus this issue of the Province Update. We are indebted to Brother Peter van Peperstraten for the reports on the Papua New Guinean Brothers' Assembly and the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Brothers Philip Teingo and Emmanuel Bagere at Aitape; to Brother John Gibson for information about the Dominican anniversary; and the Order's website for the report on the meeting in Rome attended by Brothers Timothy Graham and Joseph Smith.



FOUNDATION DAY OF SISTERS OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD



Saint John of God Hospital, Burwood, recently combined a celebration of Foundation Day of the Sisters of Saint John of God with the installation of the new Director of Nursing, Cindy Foot. Our Province was represented at the event by members of the Provincial Council – Brothers Timothy Graham, Terry Tehan, Martin Quarmby and Brian O'Donnell. A special feature of the occasion was the presence of two Sisters of Saint John of God – Sister Rosarii Carroll (left) and Sister Margaret Charleson, who had come from Melbourne to share in the occasion. The celebration began with a simple liturgy in the hospital chapel, followed by lunch in the Education Centre (the Brothers' sitting room of yesteryear). In her welcome to guests and staff members the CEO of the hospital, June Mattner, briefly referred to the foundation history of the Sisters which saw Sister Mary Visitation Clancy, a Bon Secours Sister, arrive at Wexford to carry out her commission from Bishop Furlong to cooperate with him in the foundation of a new congregation which he put under the patronage of Saint John of God. The Sisters' initial apostolate was the provision of nursing care in the Poorhouses that were a sad feature of that era in Ireland and England.



THE NEXT BROTHERS' ASSEMBLY

Plans for the November Brothers' Assembly were completed at a meeting of the Planning Committee (pictured) at the Provincial Office on 7 October. The Assembly will take place at *The Brighton*, Croydon, beginning each day at 9 am and concluding with lunch at 1 pm.

The theme of the Assembly will be "Receiving the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*". The first day, Wednesday 18th, will begin with an audio-visual prayerful reflection on creation entitled "The Eucharistic Prayer of the Cosmos". When the reflection and sharing on the cosmos is completed the day's work will be introduced by a PowerPoint presentation that relates *Laudato Si'* to John-of-God Hospitality. One of the central points of our consideration will be to explore what the encyclical is asking of those who



live the Consecrated Life. Another central point will be to itemise what we, in our particular situations could do to respond to the challenges of the encyclical. The second day, Thursday 19th, will commence with the celebration of a votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Order, with a special intention being the welfare and intentions of former-brothers, whom we remember for the contribution that they made to our mission of Hospitality while they were with us. Dr John McManus of MIND & MATTER Consulting will then conduct a session and this will be followed up by the beginning of a conversation on preparation for the General Canonical Visitation of 2016 and the Provincial Chapter of 2018.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



On a beautiful sunny day, the 26th of September, 2015, Brothers Phillip Teingo and Emmanuel Bagere, celebrated 25 years of religious profession as St. John of God Brothers at the Brothers' Chapel at Aitape. Fr. Jaijne OFM, Vicar-General of the Aitape Diocese, representing Bishop Otto, was joined by two other priests and a deacon to celebrate the Eucharist. Br. Emmanuel's sister, Bernadette, and his cousin Alfred had travelled from Rigo in the Central Province for the celebrations. This was their first trip outside the Central Province. Many members of Brother Phillip's village and people from Nuku District had travelled long hours over rough roads to join the Brothers for the ceremony. Music for the Mass was provided by a young choir and musicians organised by Brother Chris and good friends of the Brothers, Francis and Albert. There were also many religious and local friends of the Brothers at the Eucharist and festivities after the ceremony. The congregation at the Eucharist was more than double the capacity of the chapel, with many people sitting under a specially built shaded area in front of the chapel. During the Mass the two Brothers renewed their Solemn Vows as St. John of God Brothers.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA BROTHERS' ASSEMBLY



From Monday 28 September to Wednesday 30 September, 2015, the Brothers of the Papua New Guinea Provincial Delegation met for their second Assembly of 2015. The Assembly was hosted by the Saint Benedict Community, Aitape, at their Community House. The Assembly was facilitated by Brother Vianney Welsh. The theme of the Assembly was the qualities of Religious Life and Brotherhood. Brother Vianney had prepared well for the Assembly, providing handouts for each session as well as Morning and Evening prayer. All the Brothers, some of whom had travelled from the Philippines, participated well during all sessions and spoke openly about the issues facing the Delegation at this time.



RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATE IN INTERFAITH MEETING, CANBERRA



Our previous Assembly Facilitator, Sister Anne Lane, was one of more than 50 Leaders representing diverse faith groups who met with Members and Senators at Parliament House, Canberra, recently to call on them to restore Australia's standing as a compassionate nation by winding back policies negatively impacting on people escaping violence, persecution and death. Sister Anne spoke as a representative of Catholic Religious Australia when she said that "immigration detention cause significant psychological harm, particularly to children and that "it is never right to use people as a means to an end (and) we cannot allow such cruel policies to continue." Other speakers at the gathering included Sr Berneice Loch rsm (President of Catholic Religious Australia), Rabbi Alon Meltzer (National Jewish Memorial Centre), and Hafez Kassem (President of Australian Federation of Islamic Councils). It was co-hosted by Anna Burke MP (ALP), Russell Broadbent MP (Liberal), Cathy McGowan MP (Independent) and Senator Janet Rice (Australian Greens).

ASSEMBLY OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF THE ORDER BEGINS



Our Province is represented by Brothers Timothy Graham and Joseph Smith at the Assembly of Major Superiors of the Order being held in Rome at the General Curia until October 30. The Superiors have gathered together with the Prior General and his Council to reflect and dialogue at the collegiate level on the life and mission of the Order, the challenges and hopes, especially about the future. The opening Mass was presided by Prior General Jesús Etayo. In his homily he recalled the memory

of the Brothers who were martyred in Spain of the 1930s; he also recalled the Brothers and Co-workers who last year died of having contracted the Ebola virus in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The first session of the assembly began with the presentation of the program and practical guidelines on the conduct of the meeting. The moderator of the meeting is a Claretian priest - Luis Alberto Gonzalo. In his opening address the Prior General invited the superiors present to reflect honestly on their vision of the Order. The main themes that will occupy the major superiors throughout the week include the current situation of the Order in the mid six-year period, in the light of the guidelines set by the last General Chapter and the future of the Order. The new North American Province of the Good Shepherd is being represented for the first time- in the person of Australian Brother Justin Howson.



DOMINICANS CELEBRATE 800 YEARS



In 2016, the Order of Preachers will celebrate a Jubilee Year with the theme "Sent to preach the Gospel". This marks the 800th anniversary of the official foundation of the Order by Pope Honorius III. The Jubilee Year will be celebrated by Dominicans all around the world - friars, sisters and lay people - from **7 November, 2015** (Feast of All Saints of the Order) to 21 January, 2017.

Brothers of Saint John of God have a special connection with the Dominicans in that it was the Dominican who had become Pope Pius V who in 1570 recognised our fraternity as a religious institute and, amongst other privileges, allowed us to wear a monastic scapular. The Pope had given our Brothers Sebastian Arias and Peter Soriano a warm reception to the Papal court and said to them that their new institute was "*the flower which was missing from the Church's garden*". Most importantly the Dominican Pope gave us the same Rule that his own Order followed – the Rule of Saint Augustine.



The Hospitaller Order of
St John of God
Oceania Province

DATES MARKED IN OUR CALENDAR

2015

- 1 November: Assembly of Major Superiors of the Order in Rome concludes.
- 7 November: The Dominicans begin to celebrate their 800 years.
- 18-19 November: The year's third Brothers' Assembly takes place at The Brighton, Croydon. **(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATES.)**
- 23-24 November: Provincial Council Meeting scheduled.
- 27 November: Celebration of the Year of the Consecrated Life with Cardinal Aviz on the afternoon/evening at the Isabel Menton Auditorium of ACU, Edward Street, North Sydney.
- 17 December: Brothers' Christmas morning tea at Provincial Office at 10 am.



2016

- 18-22 January: Vocations Promotion/Pastoral Care Meeting
- 15-21 February: Asia Pacific Regional Conference.
- 11 September: Brothers Rudolf Knopp and Pascual Ahodegnon are scheduled to arrive at Sydney to undertake the General Canonical Visitation of the Province.
- 9 October: Prior General Jesús Etayo is scheduled to arrive at Sydney to be present during the last week of the General Canonical Visitation.
- 15 October: The three General Definitors are scheduled to depart from Sydney.