

Our Life



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Editorial

Bro Tim Scott cfc

2007 for many may not be a significant year but for the Christian Brothers of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, it certainly is. We return to the vision of Bro Ambrose Treacy when he set sail from Ireland at the request of the Third Superior General, Aloysius Hoare, and began the Oceania Province. It is fitting that Fr Tom Boland's powerful tribute to Ambrose Treacy from the 1975 Centenary is reprinted in this edition of O'UR LIFE.

The men who have carried on that spirit and light are also remembered in our Diamond Jubilarians – Key Campbell, Paul Macrossan and Brian Saward, and our Golden Jubilarians – Jim Cameron and Brian Kelly.

It is also remembered in the lives of two of our recently deceased Queensland Brothers – (another Ambrose) – and truly “another Ambrose” in his faith to his God and his mission to another land – an incredible eulogy by Gerry Burke on the essence of this remarkable Christian Brother, Ambrose Purcell, and the life of Leo Ansell, who also had a great faith in his God, is also remembered. These men, our jubilarians and our recently deceased, have spread the Gospel message around Australia and to Africa.

We remember the Brothers of the past and their role in the Province, in the article of Jim D'Arcy in the photographic tribute hung at the Xavier Centre, and how that continues today in the work of Eddies Van with Damien Price and the Terrace community - (where Ambrose Treacy died.). Let's remember Damien in a special way as he discerns his future.



What does it mean to be a Christian Brother in this new Oceania vision? Does it mean to be any different to what we have always been? Is there a difference when we are moved from our comfort zones to where we, of this generation, have not been? Anne Thurston, a Scripture scholar, wrote in her obituary for Irish journalist, Sean MacReamoinn the following – “Sean MacReamoinn was indeed a practising Catholic, which is to say, he felt himself to be one of the flawed, failing, fragile, hopeful human beings among whom the Word was made flesh. And so he rejoiced!”

Does being a practising Christian Brother, a practising follower of Edmund Rice mean much the same? The theme for the next General Chapter in India is “Dare to be Disciple: Passion and Possibility”. Philip Pinto in his letter announcing the Chapter finished off by asking the Brothers to pray for those on the Chapter and reminded us of Mary's words – “Do whatever he tells you.”

As the new Oceania Leadership Team was announced, Luke Quinn reminded us of Philip's words at the previous Chapter in 2002 – “Restructuring is an urgent call to transform minds and hearts. It facilitates new life in mission and ministry, promotes prophetic religious living and ensures a redistribution of resources in a spirit of fraternity.”

I think we are “flawed, failing, fragile, hopeful human beings among whom the Word was made flesh” and that is where our strength will be in the new Oceania venture. We need the faith that Ambrose Treacy had when he arrived in Australia without money even for a cab-fair!



Toast to the Diamond Jubilarians 2007

Bro Michael Ryan cfc

My very pleasant duty today is to propose a toast to our 2007 Diamond Jubilarians: Brothers Kevin Campbell, Paul Macrossan and Brian Saward. All three entered St Enda's Christian Brothers Juvenate in January 1947. Each of them had witnessed the dedicated service and good example of the Brothers in their respective schools: Kevin at St Laurence's, South Brisbane, Paul at St Columban's, Albion Heights and Brian at St Patrick's, Launceston. Moved by the Spirit and with the highest of ideals they took their first tentative steps in sixty-year faith journeys which have brought them here today as Diamond Jubilarians, honoured by Congregation, family and friends for their fidelity and dedication as consecrated Religious men devoted to the evangelisation of youth in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. They have not resiled from the daily demands of spiritual growth and service to others to which they bound themselves in their youth. The fact that they have stayed the course is surely a remarkable story of God's grace and providence and we do right to rejoice with them here today.

In celebrating today we also commend the efforts of those who instructed and guided them in the manner of living Religious Life, not the least of whom was the revered Br Patrick Harty, their Novice Master. No doubt each found inspiration from others in Juvenate, Scholasticate and beyond. It is this "beyond" that now becomes our subject.

Bro Kevin Campbell cfc

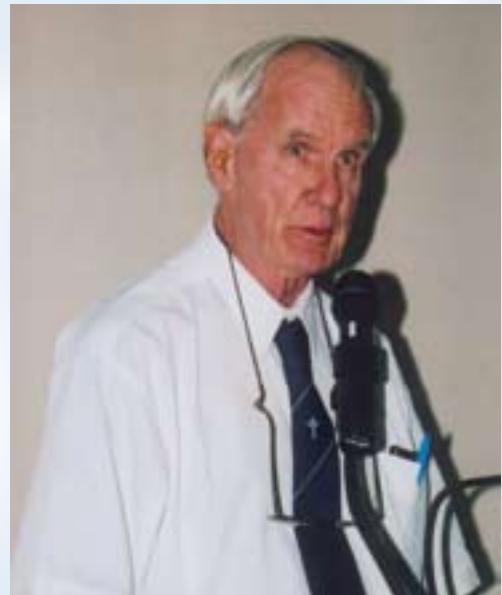
Kevin is the senior by age so I will begin with him. Kevin spent five years in the workforce as a machine mechanic after finishing his Junior at St Laurence's. So it was as a twenty year old that he resumed school studies on entering the Juvenate and annexed his Leaving Certificate.

Kevin's work "on the mission", as the term is amongst the Brothers, began in 1951 and over almost fifty-six years ranged from Hobart to Bathurst Island, from Perth to Ingham. As Kevin worked and played and prayed down the long corridor of his Christian Brother career, the student, parents, friends and Brothers of our school in the above places as well as Brunswick, Carlton, North Melbourne, Abbotsford, Inverloch (for eleven years) and Yeppoon came to know and benefit from the skills, services and spirituality of Br Kevin Campbell.

Kevin taught technical subjects in school. Obviously the years before his joining the Brothers had equipped him in this area. During his years in Melbourne, Hobart and Goulburn he undertook further technical studies which, combined with his natural flair for such practical work, enhanced his teaching repertoire.



Br Kevin Campbell cfc



Br Paul Macrossan cfc



Br Brian Saward cfc



Kevin and Fr Jim Elmore' cp



Kevin with family members at the 'Jubilee' dinner



Paul with his brother John and sister-in-law Margery at the 'Jubilee' dinner.

Although in his nationwide postings he had opportunities to sample life in a variety of different places, it would be fair to claim that only in 1991, forty years after his odyssey began, when he was transferred to Bathurst Island, did he find his earthly paradise. Kevin delighted in the lifestyle and mission that became his in that remote corner of the Commonwealth. Kev is no mean fisherman and the barra up that way had a habit of obliging when Kev plied his line. I can testify personally to his high degree of skill in dealing with such denizens of the Bathurst Island waterways, because it is only two years and a couple of months ago that, while I sat in the prow of the boat in rapt attention, he, using the flimsiest of rods but with consummate skill, gradually wore down and netted a handsome barramundi. The fish was totally exhausted and could do nothing but lie in the bottom of the boat a clear victim of an overdose of fishing checkmate.

As a professed Religious living the life of a Christian Brother, Kevin has given abundant evidence that his relationship with God lies at the core of his motivation in pursuing his goals in life and in his dealings with those he has been called to serve. His attention to daily prayer has been sustained and he holds dearly to the dictum, "It's the Mass that matters". His religious practice has been a support not only for him, but also for his Brothers in community who have been the beneficiaries of his good example.

Bro Paul Macrossan cfc

Paul began his apostolate in the 1950s with assignments to Lewisham, Canberra and Goulburn, but with the advent of the 1960s life took a few different turns. Firstly in 1960 he spent a term engaged in a work few brothers have done, namely, "the motor mission", as it was dubbed, which involved travelling around by car (not a common phenomenon amongst the Brothers in those days) teaching Religious Education to Catholic students in Public school because "the baby boomers" were outnumbering the places available in the fully stretched Catholic schools.

The next turn of Paul's wheel of fortune was his travelling to Rome for three years study at the Lateran University in pursuit of an L.Sc.R which qualification he duly obtained. Back in Australia in 1964 another spin of the said wheel saw him appointed as Director of Students for three years at the Second Year Novitiate at Mulgoa.

In 1968 he complied with his higher superiors' direction and came north to strengthen the capacities of the fledgling St Francis Xavier Province by being Boarding Master at St Patrick's Gympie. For the next twenty-four years, with the exception of four years in Zimbabwe, Paul was to minister to students, parents and staff throughout Queensland in South Brisbane, Albion Heights, Indooroopilly, Mt Gravatt, Nudgee, Rockhampton,

Toowoomba (twice) and Ingham.

In 1992 he began his second African tour of duty when he moved to Yambio in Sudan, returning to Australia in 1997. But he then turned his head to the needs of the other part of the SFX province, the Northern Territory, where he has worked for the benefit of the Church ever since, first on Bathurst Island and since 2000 in Darwin.

I've heard it said, "Join the Brothers and see the world". However that maybe, Paul seems to have scored very highly in those terms during the times when Brothers were expected to keep to their monasteries.

In addition to his studies during his Roman days, Paul has also worked to enhance his qualifications for mission while continuing his duties as teacher. His labours over the years have borne fruit in the form of Bachelor degrees in Arts and Education from the University of Queensland, a Master of Arts from James Cook University and a Diploma of Professional Counselling.

Paul has been called upon several times to bear the burdens of office in a variety of capacities. This says volumes for his sense of responsibility in that he should have been so trusted on a recurring basis. I have already mentioned his role as Director of Students at Mulgoa. Subsequently he was Superior – Principal of St Laurence's College, Deputy Principal and Bursar at St Columban's, Deputy Principal at Clairvaux College and a member of the Provincial Council for five years (1974-78) concurrently filling the roles in 1974 of Deputy Principal and Bursar of Xavier Teachers College.

It is held as worthy these days to move beyond what is perceived as "your comfort zone" as being a spiritual tonic for the complacent. Well, Paul has shown us he is game to do so by generously rallying to the flag of need when the cry went up from our Brothers in Africa, not once, but twice, to spend a total of eleven years in not the most comfortable and safest of circumstances. While on his first assignment he was Principal of the school in Embakwe for two years. Paul immersed himself in the experience that only Africa could give him at close quarters, putting it to the use of good, and, on occasion, per medium of a motor-bike, to good use. Unofficial sources report his having made his way at some stage to far flung Namibia!

Paul has also used his gifts beyond just the sphere of the Brothers' work. For five years he was a member of the State Syllabus Advisory Committee (French), for five years a member of the Coordinating Committee UNICEF for a Teacher Training Project in South Sudan and since 2000 he has been Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission in Darwin.



Paul with some of the Brothers James Singers at the Jubilee Celebrations



Paul with Br Regis Hickey and his brother John





Brian with Br Vic Larkin at the 'Jubilee' celebrations



Brian with Brs Peter Coe and Marty Sanderson



I think you would agree from this litany of Paul's deeds that he would have little to fear if measured by the parable of the talents.

Bro Brian Saward cfc

Brian launched out on his life's mission with his initial posting to Waverley in 1951.

The next year he was transferred to St Patrick's, Shorncliffe as a member of the founding community of Brothers. Brian designed the College crest during his three years there and it remains in use today. All of Brian's other assignments were to be in Queensland and he rendered distinguished service marked by the high expectations he placed on his students throughout the length if not the breadth of the State.

A three year stint at Gregory Terrace followed Shorncliffe and one recalls the inventiveness of his May altars of those days. Our Toowoomba schools, St Mary's and St Joseph's were to benefit from Brian's dedicated services for a total of twelve years. He was school Bursar at St Mary's and Principal at St Joseph's. These postings were punctuated by others of seven years at Mt Carmel College, Charters Towers, and three at St Brendan's, Yeppoon. He shouldered the task of College Bursar in both places. His most northerly placement was at St Teresa's College, Abergowrie, for eight years where he was Deputy Principal, classroom teacher by day, dormitory master by night, and a successful citrus orchardist during his spare time. And in the midst of it all he ran a well equipped welding shed in which to implement the school based courses he devised. Nor was it beneath him to scour the surrounding district full of sugar cane farms collecting used batteries from the farmers to raise money for his welding project which he had dared to initiate in a school existing on a particularly tight budget.

In 1992, after four more years at St Brendan's where he was once again College Bursar in the last year of his term, Brian received his last change of residence to date, to Nudgee College.

Brian has developed skill in evaluating and analysing building projects and in 1990 he was able to put this to good use when he was appointed to the Capital Grants Committee – Queensland Block Grants Authority. He has also served the Province in this skill in past years.

In 1993 Brian was appointed as the Christian brothers' Workplace Health and Safety Province Advisor. He still holds this position today because he has taken appropriate steps to qualify himself for a task that has grown in complexity and seriousness over the years. The initiative he has shown in organising annual, three-day, comprehensive conferences for school personnel, some

of whom travel interstate, is a real tribute to him. One is tempted to suggest, that like Kevin above, Brian seems to have found his true niche only after a long pilgrimage. The way in which Brian has continued to work full time in a role of significant importance well beyond “the usual retirement age” of sixty-five suggests that an adjective of the order of “imperishable” is fitting in his case.

Brian has been faithful throughout to his practice of prayer and participation in the liturgy as non-negotiables in his spiritual quest. His living of Religious life gains authenticity when one reflects that he has always kept a space in his life for associating with his brothers in community. Indeed this aspect of Brian’s life has reached something of an apogee in recent years at Nudgee where he has helped foster relations between the three Brothers’ communities on the Nudgee campus by arranging a weekly Eucharist and meal for these groups.

Brothers Kev, Paul and Brian, in proposing this toast to you, we say:

For the times you have stretched out a helping hand to the youth you sought to evangelise – we thank you and praise God, the author of life.

For the times you have stretched out a supporting hand to the parents and families you sought to complement – we thank you and praise God, our Father in heaven.

For the times you have stretched out a loving hand to the Brothers with whom you were committed to live with in community both locally, provincially and congregationally – we thank you and praise God who is love itself.

Golden Jubilarian **Bro Jim Cameron cfc**
Bro Luke Quinn cfc

It is my privilege and pleasure today to propose a toast to Br Jim Cameron on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee with the Christian Brothers.

Jim grew up in Townsville, the youngest of eleven children, five brothers and five sisters, parents John and Mary. He attended St Mary’s, West End, St Columba’s Belgian Gardens and Our Lady’s Mount for his primary schooling. His secondary education was completed at Our Lady’s Mount, St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie and St Enda’s Juniorate.

Jim commenced teaching in 1963 and for 32 years taught in the following schools: St Leo’s, Wahroonga, CBC Warwick, Mt Carmel, Charters Towers, Aquinas College, Southport, St Laurence’s, South Brisbane, St Brendan’s, Yeppoon, St Edmund’s, Ipswich and Gilroy Santa Maria, Ingham.

Jim was REC or APRE at five different schools over 20 years and



Br Jim Cameron cfc



Jim with his family at the 'Jubilee' Celebrations



Jim is presented a 'Papal' Blessing by the 'Province' Leader, 'Br Luke' Quinn



Jim with his family and friends at the 'Jubilee' Dinner

produced a coordinated RE Program in each of them. Jim was also Deputy Principal at Aquinas College, Southport, teacher librarian at St Laurence's and Superior of the community in Ipswich.

During 1997, Jim was engaged in sabbatical program which included courses at Marianella and a Graduate Diploma Course in Pastoral Leadership in All Hallows, both located in Dublin. Before Jim left for Ireland, he responded to an invitation from Fr Bill Busuttin at Cloncurry to come and spend time in the West. This sojourn and experience was to have a far-reaching impact on Jim's life. Jim relates that during that time he experienced being isolated by floodwaters for three days at Nora Creek. The five truckies and two fishermen on route to the Gulf shared their food and set up shelter between two of the semi-trailers. He saw first hand the manner in which Fr Bill cared for people and would go to great lengths to keep in contact with the most isolated people.

The Dublin sabbatical was for Jim very challenging, focussing on pastoral leadership both the theoretical and practical. Jim recalls that on a field placement, he chose to visit a ward in a local mental hospital. On his first visit Jim travelled through cold, sleety rain on a bike. He was told to just spend time with people and be there with them. Jim was quite nervous. He was asked by one lady: what part of Australia did he come from to which he answered "Queensland". She then asked "What did you come here for? Why did you leave a nice warm place to come to this?" - as she pointed to the rain and sleet on the windows. Without thinking, Jim replied "Some people told me I was mad to come here. With a loud laugh, she said "Well, love, you've come to the right place" and they both broke into laughter.

During this sabbatical, Jim wrote about how he would approach a future ministry. He chose the ministry of Adult Faith Formation for people in remote areas. This was then presented to the Province Leadership Team in the second half of 1998 and a new phase of Jim's life was to blossom. Fr Mick Lowcock, parish priest of Mt Isa was very enthusiastic and Jim joined the Brothers' community in Mt Isa in 1999.

Jim, however, received a major setback with his health and for eight months was to spend time in the PA hospital and St Laurence's recovering and learning "just to see". This truly was in its own way preparing Jim for future ministry.

Jim was to then travel the roads to Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden, Winton and occasionally Boulia, Dajarra, Camooweal and Normanton - all the time encouraging the locals to lead various programs in their own area. In four years, Jim had trained leaders to lead about 125 people in the Little Rock Scripture Study Courses.

Jim then became a qualified trainer in "Seasons for Growth", helping people cope with change, loss and grief. He has now trained over 50 people to run this program. The world of personal healing has opened its doors to Jim and the possibilities it brings in our lives.

Jim has recently completed a training program in spiritual companionship. For Jim, the past six years in particular have been a time of personal growth in prayer and in learning to be, as people shared about their relationship with their God.

Jim mentioned to me that he was very much influenced by three Christian Brothers. Br Bud Ridley taught all the boys in the family and was the reason why Jim went to Abergowrie because he was there in 1953/54.

Br Ephram Cryan was the Vocation Director who invited Jim to join the Christian Brothers in 1956.

Br Victor Bell taught Jim in the Juniorate and was Novice Master. Jim remembers him as a gentle, caring and supportive person especially when his father died.

I have come to know and admire Jim more and more in recent years. In Ingham, I came to realise how focussed on the task Jim could be whether it was taking on the golf course, cleaning up the school grounds on the weekend, completing school reports or planning to drive to Brisbane.

For a brief time, I was the custodian of two geese which I named Primo and Sarina. You do know how much noise geese can make. Jim was not in awe of these creatures. One day I heard Charlie Dillon's dog sounding off and a great racket ensued. I looked out towards the cane fields to see one of the geese become airborne and fly towards Hinchinbrook Island. Jim looked on, I think with dismay but with probable relief.

Finally, I wish to congratulate Jim on his 50 years of loyal and faithful service as a Christian Brother. I believe his journey has been blessed and he continues to be open to God's will and what God may ask of him.

Jim, congratulations and we thank you.

Jubilee Response

Bro Jim Cameron cfc

There was a song that I used to use as part of Year 10 Retreats called "Why Me?"

It begins:

"Why me, Lord?

What have I ever done

To deserve even one

Of the Blessings I've known?"

I have come to realise that I do not have to 'deserve' –

All the blessings in my life have come from

God's unconditional love.

My response is one of GRATEFULNESS today:

Gratefulness to God;

To my parents

To my brothers, sisters and relatives

To my fellow Christian Brothers, especially those who have lived in community with me

To my friends, and those who have encouraged and given me support over the years. I am especially grateful



Jim responds to the 'Jubilee' toast

to Fr. Mick Lowcock in Mount Isa because of his help and support in my ministry over the last eight years.

I am grateful to all of you who are here today to share this Jubilee celebration, especially those who have travelled long distances. Thank you for your personal support and friendship.

Thank you, Luke, for proposing the toast, for your kind words. Our friendship goes back to the years we spent together in Ingham, and our regular games of golf together. I think I might still be able to beat you, at least occasionally.

May God bless you all. Thank-you.

Golden Jubilarian Bro Brian Kelly cfc
Bro Bill Tynan cfc



Br Brian Kelly cfc

Brian was born in Warnambool in 1940 where his father, Leo, still lives. Brian will visit him this Christmas as he has always done recently. At seventeen he joined the Brothers and commenced teaching in 1962 at St Peter and Paul's South Melbourne. He also taught briefly in South Australia, Western Australia, Melbourne and Ballarat before accepting a two year transfer to Nudgee College. (The two year transfer continues still!)

I actually followed Brian to Nudgee in 1976 – the 1975 community having had famous members such as Brian, Stubby Southern and Lefty Wright. In 1976, Brian moved to Ignatius Park where Brian was on the staff and then Principal from 1978 to 1981. Brian's ability to make friendships beneficial to the Brothers and the school, became prominent here. Alan Symonds and his friendship helped make the Ignatius Park fete legendary with Woolworths contributing significantly to the fruit and vegetables.

Around this time his friends, the Schofields, visited Townsville. He suggested the best Chinese restaurant in town and the meal finished with, "No, Brother, you don't pay!" But someone had paid and next Sunday at the markets Brian had to placate two friends, one of whom had unknowingly been volunteered to pay.

Denis Herson reports many late night chats with Brian at this time, many suppers of toasted sandwiches and Bob Chambers reports on a 'wedding feast of Cana' evening when the scotch ran out. Late at night Corio the cheapest was declared the best!

My first remembered meeting with Brian came in late November 1981 with a phone call from the PLT. I had just interviewed and gone close to offering a job to a person in the new St James Special Education Program.

PLT on the phone – "Brian Kelly is with us now at Indooroopilly.

We've just told him that he will not be at Townsville next year but working at St James Special Program. He'll come over now so you can outline it for him."

Bill on the phone- "Okay!"

And my next few hours were listening to a 'fairly unhappy' Brother before he returned to Townsville for the last month of 1981.

And so in 1982 began Brian's long stay at St James. The PLT redeemed their reputation by purchasing for St James's the Ann Street Uniting Church for the P.E.T.C. (Pre Employment Training Certificate) for 50 or so Year 8 to 10 boys. This was Brian's kingdom. Year Ten's came to school three days a week and did work experience and community service each week. A Manual Arts was incorporated in the building and a coffee urn!

Some time after this, Brian began to have heart flutters – the doctor said, "Too much caffeine!" that came from a daily intake of coffee during the day and rum and coke in the evening. Brian listened to the doctor and replaced the coke with water!

Gert McNamara (Maccie) the St James housekeeper, became a great friend of Brian's during this time. She was won over by Comet, Brian's hunting dog. Comet's hunting ability was not enhanced by the breakfasts Maccie prepared for Comet – but some quail were shot, which tasted great, except for the lead pellets.

Two important people came into Brian's life at this time – both demonstrating Brian's capacity to reach out to those requiring help. Peter Curtain was severely injured playing football in Townsville. His father, Mick, had helped Brian when he was Principal of Ignatius Park. Peter was transferred to Brisbane's Prince Charles Hospital and Brian visited him every afternoon for months until his back brace was removed and he could walk again. Mick so appreciated Brian's efforts that he got Brian a vehicle – the Green Machine – so that he could more easily visit. Later Mick gave St James a 42 seater bus named Dolly.

The second person was Brett Courtenay, a student of St James's and Boys' Town. After one of three serious incidents at St James's, Brett moved to Boys' Town and Brian's care extended to him there. Eventually Brett used to spend weekends at the Brothers' house at St James and go shooting with Brian. After he finished at Boys' Town, Brian kept contact. But Brian was devastated when Brett who was married with one child, committed suicide. Not all friendships can change long established life patterns.

During Brian's time at St James he and I became good friends. The occasional Friday arvo' golf was followed by a meal at Mamma Luigi's in the Valley. By midnight, most of the problems of the week had been sorted. But 7.00 a.m. Mass on Saturday was sometimes a quiet affair.



Brian with Doug and Anita Angelos



*Brian at the 'Jubilee' Celebrations
"What was the question?"*



Brian and Luke Quinn at the 'Jubilee' Celebrations



Brian responds to the 'Jubilee' toast

In 1983, I did the National Tertianship in Term One in Sydney. I returned fired up with renewed energy for prayer – but finding a quiet space at St James has its difficulties. I spoke to Brian about this and his reply was simple, “But we pray always, everywhere.”

Today 2006 – where to? The Brothers, ERN, the Church urge us to go in on mission ministry – to the margins, the lost, the needy.

Brian Kelly has taught now for over forty years since starting in South Melbourne in 1962. And since 1981 he has taught in programs targeting those who could not cope with the normal school program – St James Prac, Boystown, Westcourt in Townsville. The indigenous students at Abergowrie and now at Townsville Flexible Learning Centre.

To an outstanding degree, Brian Kelly has been a follower of Edmund Rice and Jesus in their call to be people of care, service and love.



Jubilee' Eucharist' December 2006

Frs Jim Elmore, Pat Smith, John Gillen, Gerry 'Dore' and Merv Ziesing

Eulogy for Bro Desmond Ambrose Purcell cfc

Bro Gerry Burke cfc

We the Christian Brothers express our heartfelt thanks to the Purcell family, represented here today by Andrew and Barbara, Terry and the other members of the family, for the enormous gift they gave to us in the person of Desmond Ambrose as a member of our Congregational family. For the Purcell family our prayer today is: "May God comfort you in your sorrow and may He continue to bless you all.

Last night at the Vigil we celebrated in prayer and memory many aspects of the life of Desmond Ambrose. Simplicity was a striking feature of his life among us. His philosophy of life, too, was simple and direct. In fact it is at the core of the Gospel message.

LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

That's it very simply and direct

LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE

God and people were his daily business. In the long run nothing else mattered. The singleness of purpose displayed by Ambrose in this endeavour was a daily celebration of a very strong faith: Faith in God and faith in God's action in people. These two aspects of the faith were never separated.

HOWEVER Ambrose did not just sit around loving God in prayer all day – nor was his dealings with people some theoretical good will towards them.

Desmond Ambrose was fully human with strong emotions and an enquiring mind. He was an adventurer – and a prayerful adventurer at that. In fact his whole life, both meditative and active was one great prayer based on his faith in God and people.

As an adventurer among people, on a daily basis, he brought refreshment and a God-inspired calmness to whomever he met on any particular day. He was fully alive to each person addressing her or him by name, while being fully attentive to personal accounts of joy or sorrow – no matter how important or how menial. Through his personal attention, the love of God shone forth. His advice in matters small or great were always sound and reflected a total lack of selfishness. In fact utter humility in all situations was legendary.

The serenity that was a cherished fruit of his assiduous daily prayer life just naturally overflowed into his dealings with all the people he encountered on any particular day. His sincerity in loving God and loving people was for everyone with no exception.

Ambrose exhibited the virtue of constancy in his extraordinary and strong personality inherited from his wonderful parents. No



*'Br Ambrose' Purcell cfc
May he rest in peace'*

*Desmond Ambrose
was fully human with
strong emotions and
an enquiring mind.
He was an adventurer
– and a prayerful
adventurer at that.*



Ambrose' at his Jubilee' celebration



Ambrose' with Fr Ainslie' at the' Novitiate' in' Beenleigh.



Ambrose' at school in' Toowoomba

matter what office he held – Superior, Principal, Novice Master – whatever. He remained always the same refreshing Ambrose Purcell. He was my Superior in Rockhampton; later I was his Superior in Charters Towers – and still later we formed a community of two in Ipswich where we had, according to the new dispensation, shared community leadership – i.e. we were both Superiors at the same time in the same place – but, by the grace of God, Ambrose was the more Superior, Superior! Any power struggle on the part of either would have been a complete non-event. Ambrose was not into “power games”. In community he was simply a delight to live with. His serenity, keen sense of humour and his understanding of human nature were very much valued and enjoyed.

As an Administrator, he was firm and prudent, wily as the serpent, but as gentle as the dove – most understanding of human frailty in others. He held the position of School Principal in both the Southern and Northern Hemispheres (his ministry was truly global) – from his own beloved “Alma Mater” of St Mary’s Toowoomba to a large school in Port Sudan on the African Continent.

He was a very adept teacher and he gave to his students a thorough education in the basics of a wide range of subjects. He gave patient attention to students who found school work difficult and irksome. Heartily did he rejoice in their successes – be they measured in small steps or tentative leaps. He always commended effort and good will regardless of measurable success.

Ambrose himself, throughout his whole life was a keen and successful student whether in University studies or sports results for which he had a phenomenal memory. He remained a talented sports person himself, giving up the “field” for the “armchair” well into his 50’s. He always liked to win, and he assuredly played to win. A keen “Broncos” supporter both here in Brisbane and later in far away Sudan, more than once or even twice, the referee was at fault – never the team.

One of the prayed for callings in life was to serve as a missionary in a country historically less fortunate than his own Australia. I was with him in Charters Towers when he volunteered to serve in the Sudan. He even had the Carmelite Sisters at Ormiston praying that his higher Superiors would select him for that new mission. He believed strongly in the power of prayer and in a matter of months he was off to the Sudan – a loss for us here in Queensland but a superb gift for the Sudanese and especially the Eritrean refugees. Considerable was his intervention in relocating refugees to our own land. And as we know, while serving the people of Yambio in Southern Sudan, God simply said “Enough, well done good and faithful servant.”

And here we are today, somewhat unexpectedly, preparing to put

him to rest in the Brothers' plot at Nudgee. For him, his death is the ultimate healing. For us, our profound sadness is tempered by the memories of this saint who walked among us – serenely making our own footsteps somewhat lighter. By his God-inspired influence in our own lives.

So today our own prayer well may be: "Desmond Ambrose, continue in the presence of the Lord to intercede for us who are left to follow your example here on earth."

Desmond Ambrose, may you rest in peace.

Reflections on Bro Ambrose Purcell

Gerard Hore

Having known Ambrose Purcell is one of the great blessings of my life. I was one of the group of novices which he led at Beenleigh in 1974. We remained friends ever since even though the contacts became fewer and farther between in recent years. Ambrose's love of sport, his sense of humour, his liking of debate (political and other), his academic and teaching skills were all wonderful attributes. But they were insignificant compared with his love of religious life, his love for the Church, his loving concern for others and his love for God.

The last time we spoke face to face was sitting in a grandstand at the Gabba a few summers ago, two of only a few hundred there watching Queensland lose a game. We were talking about teaching and he said, "You know it took me years to realize that not everybody could easily control a class of forty-five boys. I really regret that. I thought poorly of some teachers who just needed a bit of help." This was said without any hint of vanity but the implication that he was himself a natural-born teacher is obvious. And correct.

I know few details of Ambrose's most recent times in Sudan but am quite prepared to think that there was heroic devotion to the poor in his work there.

Ambrose's death comes at a time when his beloved Broncos are premiers and Queensland holds both the Pura Cup and The State of Origin trophy. With this new advocate for Australian sport in Heaven, England may as well concede the Ashes now!

Reflections on Ambrose Purcell by Staff of Catholic Multicultural Pastoral Care

An Inspiration to All

Brother Ambrose was, and will continue to be, an inspiration of faith, justice, hope and respect for the human person regardless of race,



Ambrose' in Sudan



Ambrose' with a group of novices in Sudan



The Jolly Swagman

gender, culture, belief, ideology or age.

He reached a very deep understanding of intercultural relations. Such capacity helped him a lot in his work. In often difficult circumstances, he was one of those few people able to move around and reach people. Most of us will never be able to do this. He enjoyed life among those with whom he shared himself. He developed the ability to adapt to other persons' time, to others' priorities, to others' needs and he did this always with a positive mind and a good sense of humour as well.

He assisted in the education of many children who, for sure, will have leadership roles in their countries of origin. He understood very well the agony and desperation of those who have lived most of their lives in refugee camps. Therefore, he never gave up. He was always seeking ways to help them to resettle in a third country, for them to have a new life with their families, a life of hope and dignity.

As we reflect on Brother Ambrose's life and selfless contributions, we still have waiting in the refugee camps, many of those families whom he asked us to help to get out of the refugee camps, those who are waiting for their answers to freedom and hope of a life.

He lived his faith every day with passion. He took as important to pray during his day. He valued his journey of learning to grow in faith, by immersing in the Jesus who lives among the suffering people, in order to follow, with an authenticity, his discipleship, without fear, even in situations of danger.

Brother Ambrose, many of us will miss you. However, given the reality of life, those who will feel they have lost a brother, a father, an uncle, a friend, the only trusted company they ever had - are those who now, will have to pray that you continue to help them, in hope, and with the faith you shared with them, in order that they may find a new human person who gives them the same unconditional love you gave them.

Let us pray, that you, Brother Ambrose, inspire others to follow your way to save the lives of people.

Your friend and companion on your journeys,

Jose Zepeda

Farewell to an old friend

With the passing of Br Ambrose Purcell the world has lost a truly gentle, humble man who brought God's love and concern to many. His love of Sudan and his support of many African people will never be forgotten. My last memory of Ambrose was when we had lunch together before he left this time for Sudan. I firmly believe that was where he felt God had called him to be and that he was more than happy to answer that call. May he rest in peace.

Mary Gavin

A Twinkle of Life

My earliest recollection of Brother Ambrose was reading a typewritten letter that he sent from the Sudan. That was sometime in 2001 when he was helping a few young Sudanese, Ethiopians and Eritreans to migrate to Australia under the Refugee and Humanitarian scheme. Jose, my then Director, had asked me to assist in obtaining the necessary information and application forms for Brother Ambrose and keep in touch with the application process. This was also the time when the staff of CMPC was starting to get acquainted with the Sudanese culture, having recently welcomed and helped resettle a stream of new arrivals. We (myself particularly), at the time, had no idea how to relate with the Sudanese. Having worked in the Sudan for many years, Brother Ambrose gave the staff an in-depth sneak peek of the Sudanese culture and current events.

CMPC's contact with Brother Ambrose continued as he carried on with his work in the Sudan, always taking the time to pop in whenever he was in town. I remember Brother Ambrose as a warm and approachable person who spoke to me as if I had been his neighbour for the last ten years. His blue eyes had this certain twinkle revealing his love of life and passion for his work. He absolutely loved what he was doing - and he died doing what he loved the most, that is, to constantly seek ways to help the most marginalised and simply be there for them as an affirmation of God's love.

I could almost see him now with his trademark wink as if to say "Percy, things are going to work out fine."

Percy

An Untimely Loss

When I first met Bro Ambrose at the end of last year, he was recuperating and was unsure whether he was going to go back to Sudan. I know that he told me that if there was one place that he would want to be in his last days - that was going to be Sudan with the people that he loved dearly. We will remember Bro Ambrose in our prayers and we will also pray for all the Christian Brothers who were family to him.

Clyde Cosentino



Eulogy for Bro Leo Jeremiah Ansell cfc

Bro Tim Scott cfc

*May Leo now enjoy
seeing his God - face
to face - and finding
that eternal library.*

Leo Ansell, Bro Ansell, Bro Jeremiah, Jerry, Jerry-by-George, Rusty (to some of his students) – many names for someone, whom I have already described in an article for the Catholic Leader, as a real “character” – a true gentleman and a man of prayer. It is a daunting task to do justice to this very talented and apparently complex man. Having read some of the biographies he has written, I should have had the foresight to ask him to write his own eulogy, which I could have read – but I am sure he would have left out so much. As I speak, if you hear an echo, it will only be Leo saying, “apocryphal, apocryphal!”

I spoke to Bro Regis Hickey in Darwin on Saturday night. He was the Provincial who arranged with Leo to go into archival work, and also, by co-incidence taught Michael Vosti at St Kevin’s, Melbourne, who will do one of the readings today. He was a group ahead of Leo in the Juniorate. Regis mentioned that in the Juniorate, they were talking about the great feats people were doing – I’m talking 1942 - and Leo said – “Next thing they will have people jumping from the Eiffel Tower into a sponge!” Regis reminded him of this in later years to which he replied – “Apochryphal!”

My first encounter with Leo was in 1957 when the Brother’s community would sometimes go up to Villa Maria for Mass where I was an altar server. I then lived with Leo both at Shorncliffe and St Mary’s Toowoomba, and was with him at Xavier where he was Province Archivist. I also was fortunate to travel with him to Rome for the Beatification of Edmund Rice.

John Henry Newman, in writing about what a gentleman was, stated – “The true gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast; all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home.” Some may consider, that in Leo’s case, there was a clash of ideals in this statement about a gentleman. Leo certainly made his position on certain situations known - but you were certainly welcomed warmly and appreciated – but he was definitely always the gentleman. So now to something of the Leo who touched so many of our lives.

Leo was born in the family home at Mornington Street, Red Hill in 1925, the youngest son of Lance Ansell and Margaret Stratford and the younger brother to Gladys and twins, Lance and Eddie. Today we are pleased to have Gladys and Eddie here to celebrate Leo’s life along with some of his eleven nephews and nieces and eleven grand nephews and nieces. His love for his family was very noticeable and was always very conscientious



Br Leo Jeremiah Ansell cfc

each Christmas about what gift each were to get even from the confines of his room at Holy Spirit. He keenly felt the death of his brother-in-law, Tom and brother Lance, and especially his nephew, John.

His early schooling was at the Mercy Convent at Red Hill followed by two years at Gregory Terrace. In his class there was another student who also ventured to Strathfield, Eric Corney, whom we buried last year and also two future priests, Kev Aspinall and Owen Oxenham. His own family produced several vocations, his cousins, Pat Stratford and Dick Pascoe, here with us on the altar today.

His entry into the Christian Brothers was not without excitement – so it seems. It was customary for Testimonial letters to be provided by the local Bishop and Parish Priest before the receiving of the Habit. I came across a telegram, in Leo's papers – marked "Urgent Rate" and saying "Testimonial letters granted" signed Mons English and "Permission to proceed obtained by Fr Carlton and phoned through" dated 10th February. Leo's Habit reception was the 11th February! Queenslanders from that group still with us are Kev Dwyer, Terry Kelly, Pat O'Doherty and John Wright, some well known Queenslanders from the group who predeceased him, have welcomed him to his eternal reward, Eric Corney, Eric Raymer and Ken Ramsay. Also with us today, is Bro Bernie Magill from New South Wales who would regularly write to Leo and visit each year. He arrived the afternoon before Leo died and visited him and they had made plans for their activities on the next day – Leo's last. We were both with Leo shortly after he died.

Leo's many missions are listed in the booklet. One of his comments on his many changes was that "I have had 40 or so odd Superiors – and some were very odd!" To a certain young Brother who said he had, had three changes before Final Profession, came the reply, "By George boy, I've had that many in a year!" His continued contact with past students was remarkable - particularly if they had entered the priesthood or Religious Life. Only in September last year he received an invitation to fifty year celebrations at St Mary's Toowoomba of one of his classes. As I sat there at Holy Spirit to reply on his behalf to the invitation, I was amazed how detailed his memories were of each of the students, as we read through the list of names.

If I was to say that he also ran fishing clubs, I would be reminded in no uncertain terms, that they were angling clubs and that he was an angler and not a fisherman! Stan Campbell would often go with him – and Leo had several stories about those trips! He also encouraged the students in the Dominic Savio Club, run by the Salesian priests, and many temporary professed Brothers in his communities were strongly encouraged, as only Leo could, to join him to help on the camps. It happened that Leo died on the



Leo the Archivist



Leo enjoying a good rest with Ray McInerney



The Angling Club



Leo and his cats



Leo with Ray McInerney



Leo and Monica Morrison

feast of Don Bosco the founder of that order.

Leo finished teaching in 1973, but then there blossomed other ministries as College Bursar (he had been bursar in many communities) and also work in the Bookshop and Tuckshop. Stories from Tuckshop mothers are legend (and of course all apocryphal!) His appreciation of their hard work was always acknowledged when he would go to great lengths to put on thank-you drinks and refreshments for all who had helped him. Many mothers had the experience of Leo's driving skills and his limited vision! At Shorncliffe we had a very old utility we had received second hand from St James (so it was on its last legs!) The cabin and tray were riddled with rust. On a particular afternoon I went to get it to head to Deagon Sports Fields but it wasn't there. Later that evening I asked Leo where it was. He replied "I was driving down Broad Street when the seat collapsed through the floor of the cabin. I nearly ran over myself!"

He was also the College bursar and one evening, as we were coming back into the house after the evening rosary, Leo was on the tail end of the line in the bottom corridor and the doorbell went. Leo opened the door to be met by a barrage of angry words from a very irate parent whose son had apparently been kept in. Leo wasn't on the teaching staff but listened to the whole explosion which we could also hear down the corridor. It finished with the parent saying, "And if I have to tear the school apart brick by brick, I'll find out what happened!" To which Leo replied, "Very well, we will add the bill to the school fees!"

Many may have considered Leo very inflexible or gruff - but this was not so. As one of the nurses said to me at Holy Spirit on the morning he died - "We all soon realised it was bluff and we loved him dearly." He too loved the attention they gave him. It was not uncommon to visit him and there would be a small dog sitting on his bed keeping him company - thanks to one of the staff. His humour was something to be enjoyed. He loved a joke or a good cartoon or a funny story and some of his one-liners were pearls. Mick Ryan had a cat at St Patrick's Shorncliffe that was obviously named Patrick, until one morning at breakfast Leo announced, "The cat's name is now Patricia - it had a litter of kittens in my magazine basket during the night."

You were usually made aware exactly where you stood if Leo needed to make a point. One Brother who visited him at Holy Spirit, spent the whole visit regaling Leo about his ailments and grievances and bad news. Leo didn't get to say much until the end. As the visitor was leaving he asked Leo was there anything he could do for him. "Yes," said Leo, "visit me only at Christmas!" On another occasion I was showing him some old photos of Brothers' communities which I was going to use in OUR LIFE. While looking at one, he pointed and said, "Have you ever lived with that man?" I replied no and he said, "Most of the time

he was all over you like a rash – the rest of the time, he was the rash!” He would also not go to the Coast for the holidays but organise his own, at some time. His comment was that he needed a break from the community and they certainly needed a break from him.

His hospitality was legendary as were his comments on the quality of a red wine and a good book. He was an avid reader. I would bring him a few books each week and they would be finished by the following week as well as others he had bought or been given. Many he would read several times and his memory for passages was incredible even if it had been some years since he had read it. Leo’s great love was to hold a book, freshly arrived from the printers, on which he had spent so much time.

His work in the Diocesan Archives in Toowoomba was well known and very much appreciated. He was well regarded as a man of integrity, efficiency and guarded confidentiality strongly. His work with Church Archivist Society which welcomed all the major churches and the Jews, was also highly esteemed as was his work with the many historical societies he was associated with. His publishing work, both of his own writings, some 24 books, and books of other people were enormous. The effort he put into this work was extraordinary. Just on the book he wrote about Fr Joseph McKey in the Toowoomba Diocese, he read every diary written by Joseph from 1929 (some 50 books) which had over 18,000 entries and then did interviews and other research. He had a great love for the Church, its priests and its history and its art. The collections of books he left in many places on these subjects were plentiful. It is appropriate that his memorial card is in the form of a bookmark.

Leo was not one for committees and when he formed the Church Archivist Society he made the comment that it worked efficiently as he was the Chairman, Secretary, treasurer and committee! When I heard he was going overseas to research other Church archives, I asked him how he managed to get the trip. “The Church Archivist Society unanimously voted to send me over!”

One wonders where he got the energy to do all this when he was a man who suffered considerable ill health. Many would recall the incident of his lying in bed in Lewisham one evening after some operation, with his pipe, a glass of port and a book and when asked by a Brother how he was, there came that well known phrase, “I’ve learnt to live with pain.” But he certainly had lived with pain over the years and felt for others who also suffered. On one occasion I mentioned that one of the Brothers was going into hospital for a knee replacement. He commented that he felt sorry for the Brother as it was a very painful operation. Leo said, “I have had the hips done, the hands done and the knees done, and the most painful was the knee.” I made the comment to him that with all those pieces added and taken away, I wouldn’t



Leo with some of the 'Treacy Community



*His family at his Golden Jubilee Celebrations
.Leo was in hospital.*



*Leo with his sister and Family.
Gladys, Kathryn, Leo, John*



Dominic Savio Club concert



Preparing a book for publication.



Leo with the family of Terry Ranger



Some of the Shorncliffe Community, Ross Walters, Ray McInerney, Leo Ansell

know whether to bury him or have a tupper-ware party. When he stopped laughing he told me that if we chose the party to be sure to choose a good red!

About every month he would ask me to tidy his room. That was simple. He had his cupboard of clothes which were looked after by the Holy Spirit staff - so then it was his shelf of books which were relegated to - have read, about to read, and will read again - and he had three shelves. The other was his correspondence - also in three categories - junk mail, business and the incredible amount of personal mail from friends, family and past students. He so much appreciated hearing news of his friends and loved little drawings from the children - he would keep close, replies from little Alice Carrett whose mother had succeeded him in the archives at Toowoomba. His needs were simple.

Bernie Magill in his Diamond Jubilee address to Leo summed him up as "A man of fortitude, a man of vitality and a man of surprises." He went on to quote from the Imitation of Christ - "Sickness doesn't change a man; it only shows you what he is." So very true of Leo. Bernie and Leo had the First Year classes at Lewisham in 1956 - the students referred to the two of them as "Ansell and Gretel"! I think Bernie best sums up Leo's life when he said at the Jubilee, "I believe Leo has discovered for us something we were apt to overlook in the great emergency of giving children schooling for survival. In such times, teaching was all. But God does not give us our personal gifts for nothing. Leo had the courage to go out on a limb and use those God-given gifts. Others are doing likewise. Our gifts are as reliable a pointer to God's will as any." (End of quote) For sixty-five years, as a Christian Brother, Leo shared those gifts with us so generously.

Leo left specific instructions about his funeral liturgy back in 1982 and then wrote some years later saying it didn't matter, as long as there were no drums or guitars, but he would like the recessional to be the "Alleluia Chorus" I went back to the original letter and worked the liturgy around what Leo wanted - particularly Handel. I do hope when he arrived at Heaven's gates and knocked, that St Peter boomed out "Entre!" It is very appropriate that Leo will be laid to rest beside his very good friend, Ambrose Purcell. May Leo now enjoy seeing his God - face to face - and finding that eternal library.

Homily at Bro Leo Ansell's Funeral *Fr John Gillen sm*

When we examine the "mix of elements" which constitutes who we are, most of us, I daresay, will find the element of paradox - sometimes, for some of us, it will express itself in overt contradiction!! Leo, too, was somewhat paradoxical, at least in personality, if not by nature. What you saw, was what you got!

Intensely private, he was yet actively involved with the world at large, not least through his voracious reading. He was very much aware of what was happening, of what was taking place. In his own way, he was the active contemplative, seemingly enclosed, yet so much present. A solitary for the most part, he yet rejoiced in family and friendship. He spoke to me often of his sister, of his two brothers and of their children. He spoke of his father and of his mother. He was fiercely loyal in friendship - friends perhaps numerically few in the deepest sense - yet friendship close and deep, and drawn from each avenue of life Leo travelled. Some outside this intimate circle might have regarded him as a square peg in a round hole. I, personally, would see this as a sign of what might be called his prophetic status among us. He could irritate and annoy - or rather, he could be brutally frank - but God knows the Church and the world has need of square pegs. We have too much of the other

Often when I have been with someone who is enfeebled, frail or in pain - and Leo did suffer - and there is no real prognosis of cure or remedy, I often think of those first moments of eternity for such a one - of that person striding lengthily and gliding joyfully across the sunny uplands of heavens. This image, however, does not gel with Leo. There was a *l'air de* about him that obstructs such thoughts. I have this vision rather, of Leo very quickly finding a room in his Father's House marked "library" and on the wall a notice admonishing "Silence Please!"

Perhaps, during his life, Leo felt he too was subject to the vagaries of others - more than most. His list of missions would today certainly earn him many frequent flyer points. Perhaps because of this, he was determined to have the final say in his funeral liturgy. He has chosen the readings and the hymns. Br Tim Scott tells me that today's Liturgy is a mellower version of the Order of Service Leo requested a few years ago. And there you have again a paradox - the one deceased in human reckoning directs the liturgy we celebrate this morning.

So, which elements of the Word of God would Leo have us hear today and take to heart?

Job's declaration of belief is in one who lives above and beyond circumstances, machination and manipulation. It is faith in the one who gives life and life eternal to those who come to him and who try to live by his ways. Shadowy though Job's words are, we, from the prism of the New Testament, see in them, the promise of resurrection. They also contain the assurance that our response in life and in faith, will be accepted, that there is finally meaning for what happens and that the God we have searched for in different and varied ways will reach out to embrace - and there will be no more misunderstanding, misconstruing of intention or purpose.



'Dan Courtney, Leo Ansell, Liam Regan at Nudgee'



'Bernie Murphy and Leo'



Leo at work



Leo, Bernie Crawford, Bernie Magill

St Paul is much more definite. In our Second Reading, the Apostle breaks out into a hymn about God's enormous love. Paul has just examined the new life of the Christian and explored the bases of Christian hope. To have God on one's side means to have no real opposition. The fact of the Father's handing over of the Son assures the Christian that there is no limit to God's concern. Continuing the questions, Paul asks if anyone will bring a charge against those chosen by God? The obvious answer is that it can't be God who has made us right with himself and it is also evident that Christ Jesus cannot condemn God's chosen. Here Paul lines up the different moments in the one act of salvation: death, resurrection and exaltation the "right hand of God", and this surely rules out condemnation. As a final assurance, Paul adds that Jesus intercedes for believers. Jesus is therefore still linked with Christians and their world of concern. In short, there is no obstacle, howsoever imaginable, that can separate us from the abiding love of Christ.

All this from God's part. And on our side? What are we to bring to this relationship? Our Gospel today portrays the scene of the Final Judgement and it can be reduced to this: to recognize the Son of Man in those whom the world labels of no account the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill, the imprisoned. The standard or the basis of judgement is the recognition or non-recognition of those sisters and brothers of the Son of Man. In the Gospel scene, Jesus appears in all the trappings of regal splendour but he exercises his kingship by his role as shepherd and in the dialogue with the two groups - the blessed and the condemned - the criterion of judgement that emerges is this: the Son of Man, the king, the shepherd, identifies with all those who suffer, and these "least ones" - who are not to be limited to Christians, never mind Roman Catholics - these "least ones" within the context of the judgement, are all those who experienced any form of need. To alleviate the suffering of such people is to uncover the image of Jesus. To refuse help and concern, is to refuse allegiance to Jesus, the king and the shepherd

There you have it, Leo's final gift to us today, of the Scriptures he has asked to have proclaimed at his Funeral Liturgy.

Probably each of us is a contradiction in parts - seen in this way by some, in that way by others. Most of us, in life, experience some misunderstanding or sense of rejection and yet through these experiences, often because of these experiences according to the testimony of our faith tradition, God's grace works in us if we enable it to.

The Prophet Jeremiah has come down to us as something of a contradiction. In the popular mind, he is a doom merchant, no doubt because of his prognostications of divine retribution and punishment with his tirades of rooting up and tearing down. But Jeremiah was also the prophet of God's deliverance with those

life images of building and planting. I, for one, am grateful for the growth in my life through knowing Leo Jeremiah Ansell.

The Sacred Scriptures are the Word of God written in the ink of our human condition. In what he has left us this morning, we see at work Leo the Brother, the friend, the teacher. As did Leo, we surely too have our moments of doubt, of uncertainty, of being misunderstood and groping hesitantly towards the light. But Job's assurance that our redeemer lives is ours too, and if we have hearts big enough, we can capture something of the certainty that was Paul's but only if we try - try - to live out today's Gospel, that is, to live out our baptismal commitment, to share in the person and mission of Christ. Today's Gospel calls us to engage with life and not to waste God's gift. According to our life's circumstances and our gifts and talents, we are to reach out to one another. For some, it will be a more literal response to today's Gospel of Matthew, for others, it will be to use our gifts in our own singular fashion to improve our human lot and serve the one who identifies himself so closely with his brothers and sisters in need.

For Leo, this Gospel bore fruit in his life and work as son, as Brother, as teacher, as historian, as author, as archivist, as innovator - and as friend. Not everyone is given such a myriad of ways to respond, but all of us are called to respond in heart and mind and with verve and imagination.

For me, Leo had no tickets on himself. He was very aware of his short-comings and that at times he had hurt and given offence. He certainly acknowledged that judgement could give rise to judgementalism. He often confessed his own sinfulness. In all this, he was participating surely in what Paul called the act of salvation - here on earth a continual experience of death and resurrection and now in heaven, we hope and pray, exaltation.

For surely only someone with a sense of personal sinfulness but of God's redeeming nature also, could make his own those verses from Romans and only such a person could have as his Recessional, the "Alleluia Chorus" from the "Messiah"?

Sinfulness and holiness, death and resurrection. Still another paradox.

We are the poorer for our loss but the richer for having yet another who will watch over and pray for us even as we remember and pray for him.

Eternal rest grant unto Leo, O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



80th Birthday Celebrations



Enjoying a meal



His late brother, Lance

A Tribute to Bro Samuel Alban McKay cfc Bro Athanasius McGlade cfc

(Alban died Friday morning Jan 19, 2007, aged 92. Many Queensland Brothers were influenced by Sam's life particularly in the Juniorate. This is Athy's eulogy at the funeral Mass – Editor.)



Br Samuel Alban McKay cfc

I'll call him Alban, that's how I knew him for over 80 years. We were twins of a sort. He was born 10 days before me in August, 1914 and I was 10 days before him into Strathfield of the end of 1928, both aged 14. He was the oldest Brother in NSW when he died, aged 92.

We went through the formation years together, received the habit the same day in December, 1929, made the novitiate together under Patrick Harty - (it was his first year as Novice Master), made First Vows together, Christmas Day, 1930 and Final Vows, Christmas Day nine years later. We were the last survivors of that Novitiate group of 1930 - 77 years ago.

Our ways parted - he went to Melbourne, then Perth; I stayed in Sydney. In 1940 he was assigned to the staff of the Juniorate at Strathfield where he was to remain 17 years. He was 25 years old. Those Juniorate years were the most important in his life because of the influence he exerted on a generation of your men who were to become Christian Brothers.

He was a very spiritual man, deeply religious as revealed in his morning mini meditations, strongly attached to following Christ as a Christian Brother. Nothing could shake his religious convictions. He was a great teacher of Mathematics, very clear in his exposition, step by step. He had graduated from Sydney University with a Masters Degree in Pure Maths, and was ready to argue a proposition with Prof. Room. He was a splendid physical specimen - tall, well-built, a great sportsman, handball, cricket, tennis, football and in his later years, golf. He was an expert gymnast and executed amazing exercises on parallel and horizontal bars. So he was an ideal model for all those young men who came to Strathfield to become Christian Brothers - religious, spiritual, intellectual, physical. He was affable, kind, patient, mildly witty, a good advisor, a genial companion. "You felt he had respect for you", said one. So there was a sacramentality in all his daily actions. He was a member of that great team of Brothers who over the forties and fifties staffed St Enda's - Borgia Murray, Claver Daly, Victor Bell, Joseph Robinson, Regis Bloom and others - all now in the heavenly homeland, save one, Victor.

He taught at Waverley College and loved to tell stories about Maximus O'Connor whom he greatly admired, and spent his last school years at Albury enjoying its small community.

There, I thought, was our best Maths teacher away in Albury teaching two or three students Advanced Maths. But he was happy there in the country town because his legs had packed up on him and he could enjoy bike riding along the flat country roads. It was in Albury Hospital that in the course of an operation on his knee he contracted the infection 'golden staff', and he suffered the consequence the rest of his life.

He came to Charingfield to retire six years ago, was always an engaging conversationalist, loved recalling memories of days at Strathfield or Waverley. I saw him Christmas Eve weak, frail, as affable as ever, patiently waiting the last call. I knew it would be our last meeting and that I was in the presence of authentic holiness. I felt I was at heaven's gate.

Farewell my twin Brother, great lovable hunk of a man. I have known many Christian Brothers few to equal you. Vale: pax tecum.



Br Ambrose Treacy, Founder of the Brothers in Oceania

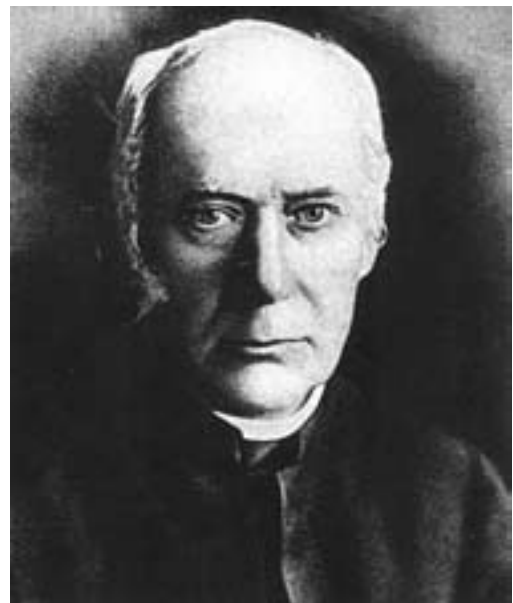
Dr Tom Boland

(Among the Christian Brothers in Australia and New Zealand, none is held in higher esteem than Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy, the founding Provincial. His faith, energy and dedication underpinned the beginning and growth of the Brothers in Oceania. In the space of 30 years and without any government assistance, he established communities and schools providing education for Catholic boys in the main centres of what were then the colonies, often undertaking arduous collecting tours on horseback to finance the work. When the Brothers in Queensland celebrated the centenary of their first foundation (Gregory Terrace, 1875), they gathered at Br Ambrose's grave in Nudgee Cemetery, Brisbane to honour his memory. The homily at the Mass, given by Rev Dr T Boland, captured the spirit of this great man. Here is the text of Dr Boland's tribute. An inspiration as we look to the beginnings of the Oceania Province.)

Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy

The souls of the just are in the hand of God. If we reflect on the theological meaning of 'just' - right, straight, properly squared off with God - and so with men - we know that Patrick Ambrose Treacy was a just man, that he rested, rests now and will rest forever in the hand of God.

One who is uniquely in a position to know the Brothers of every age and province of the Order since Edmund Rice, has declared that Ambrose Treacy was the greatest Christian Brother, after the Founder, who ever lived. His record in Australia suggests a great man - a man of scale, of energy, daemonic in its intensity. St. Peter Damian once referred to his friend Hildebrand, who became St. Gregory VII, as Sanctus Satanas, holy Satan, a paradox by which he meant that Hildebrand pursued the good with the relentless power, the determination of Lucifer, Son of the Morning.



Br 'Patrick Ambrose' Treacy cfc

He was born in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, in 1834, to a family of strict principles and strict observance, the kind of discipline that could stifle initiative or channel it with explosive force. The trajectory was in the direction of the Christian Brothers, where he was taught by Brother Larkin, one of the first Sydney Community, who like Treacy, returned to Australia; he taught at Terrace, was known to James Duhig, and is buried here, two places from Brother Treacy. Entering the Christian Brothers at 18, Patrick became Ambrose, named for another practical man of talent who found it all worth nothing beside the talent hidden in the field. He spent 14 years as a dynamic teacher, a career in itself. At the age of 34 he was commissioned by the Superior General to take a young community and carry the Order to the Antipodes. What the Superior General had in mind beyond a school in Melbourne is not recorded, but what Brother Treacy did is incredible. He travelled constantly from Dunedin to the Hodgkinson River in North Queensland. He was a founder on the move, planner, builder, financier, traveller, teacher - a career of Renaissance variety. At the age of 66 he entered on yet another, 10 years as Consultor, administrator and overseer of a world, but with a special love still for Australia. One man in his time plays many parts, but rarely with such style and consuming energy as Brother Treacy.

Yet it is not the extraordinary range and achievement of those careers that inspires us. It is

the spirit in which they were pursued. We know it is the Spirit of Christ; but Vatican II has reminded us that for a Religious Order, the Spirit of the Gospel is specified by that of the Founder. They were both realists whether hard or soft headed. If an outside - though far from detached observer may comment, I think realism is prominently a part of the Christian Brother charism. This does not exclude either dreams or visions - any of the human talents - but the capacity to see the world, men, God, straight, whole without extraneous additions is part of the legacy of Brother Rice and Brother Treacy. Both of them were business men as were many of the first Rice companions. Brother Rice, of course, had his own business, and a remarkably successful one. Had he never founded an Order, he would have been a notable man, local boy makes good, a born President of Rotary. Brother Treacy entered the Order at 18. He had no life in commerce, but his letters are those of a shrewd and competent man of affairs. He always refers to exact figures, whether it is of prices or of areas of properties. When he and Brother Barrett give descriptions of Terrace or Nudgee, the latter is satisfied with round numbers; the former gives exact figures, to a fraction of a rod, pole or perch. He sent sketches, even though the exact relation to Cabbage Tree Creek would mean little in Dublin. His estimates of men, bishops, brothers, or casual travellers, met on his extensive travels are shrewd, practical, without prejudice or animosity. If we were to make comparisons, we might see Brother Rice as softer, more volatile, more vulnerable. Left to nature Brother Treacy might have been perhaps unyielding; but this is where grace has worked on nature, and the grace of the Gospel worked through Brother Rice. He learned that the service of Christ through Christ in youth was the goal, not business efficiency or the grandeur of the Order.

Flouting normal business principles called for sacrifice and faith in one who so obviously respected them; and he did more than once. When he and his first community arrived in Melbourne in 1868 they had to borrow ten shillings from a priest fellow passenger to get their baggage ashore. This confidence in God's providence is staggering. He sailed for the other side of the world - the other side of the moon - without cabfare; that would not faze him, since his sense of poverty would not allow him to take cabs; but he had come to found an Empire.



The Grave at Nudgee cemetery

Closer to home, in 1889 he planned to build Nudgee College. He wrote to the Superior General: "I commenced without either the money for the building or even the promise from you of a staff of brothers to work it. I have confidence however that God will provide the means as heretofore . . ." How many of us are still relying on what he had learned of faith in his Christian Brother training. What a disaster for us, if he had not been a man of such faith.

I believe that a lot of Brother Treacy went into the building of Nudgee College and not just his hopes and dreams. The style of the building was Treacy himself - grand, solid and strong, meant to endure the shock of storms and the heat of the blazing sun; yet with a touch of grace and beauty. The lines are straight, definite, a construction of strength and purpose - and that was Treacy. There were no convolutions of confused ideals and motives. A psychiatrist would have worn out his couch waiting for custom.

There was no dissipation of the heart. His lines were clear - God, Christ, Church. Order, schools, boys to serve. Life was simply - if sacrificially resolved, by Rule in the Church. He was no mere conformist; his letters to and about authorities are quite blunt and fearless; but he lost no time in regrets and hankering that could have no result. That was not the way to bring a hemisphere



Nudgee College

to Christ. There is little doubt that he was a Crusader in Mission; but there was so little egotism in him that his Crusade did not stop his also being a guest. He was a man of his times and he had no doubts of what he had to do or what he had to offer.

Yet he was not a figure of hard right angles. From somewhere - and we suspect that it was from Brother Rice - he learned the humane principle of power, the strength of a rounded arch, the curvilinear grace that softens the rectangles of Nudgee's Italianate pile. Though a few contemporaries saw him as an autocrat in the nineteenth century, you will search his letters closely without finding a trace of malice or ill nature. He thought always of his Brothers and all he met. He had particular concern for the lay brothers, that they should not be overtaxed in their work or their diet. Brother Barrett tells us that he regularly carried on his travels a bottle of wine and a little whiskey for the steerage passengers, who had nothing. On the "Donald Mackay" on the long journey to Australia he revelled in the company and was tolerant of the ship's doctor who drank too much, but told good stories. He brought his prized possession with him - his Cremona Violin - one of the 50,000 survivors of the 500 Stradivarius made! Beauty he loved and the healing peace of nature, witness the gardens he planned and helped to plant in Nudgee and elsewhere.

In the middle of these gardens he liked to place a statue of Our Lady. This, too, he had learned well - the place of Mary in the lives of the brothers of Christ. He took with him everywhere a picture of her as Mater Amabilis, our Mother so worthy of love. He had special reason to love that picture. He saw it on the wall in Thurles when he went to consult Brother Larkin about his vocation, and it spoke to his thoughts. Brother Larkin gave it to him to bring to Australia, since it had hung in the first Sydney house. Brother Keenan told me that not long ago it was still in Parade, but now is gone. To find it would be to rediscover the history of the Order. The Marian links, the piety of the Australian founder is contained within its frame. The first thing he did on being told to go to Melbourne was enter the Chapel and pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Southern provinces were founded in prayer - and that to Mary. When he came to die he was commemorated with a prayer to Mary Immaculate.

One thing we can say of Brother Treacy is that he loved Australia and he loved the Brothers. When in 1900 he found himself suddenly returned to Ireland after 32 years, he wrote: "It is hard on me to be torn away from the Brothers with whom I have worked so long a time, and from the country and the work that seemed to suit me so well. I loved the Brothers, the place, the work, and it is with considerable reluctance that I separate myself from all . . ." When his time as Consultor was up, he chose to return to Australia to see the men, the schools and the country his heart had never left. He came back to Nudgee to tend the lawns and the gardens he had planted. He did not long enjoy them. Cancer soon put him in the Mater Hospital. Since there was no chance of recovery he asked to be taken to Terrace, his first Foundation in Queensland, there to die. It is pleasant to recall that there he was received with the charity, the humanity



touched by grace, that he had taught. Only yesterday Monsignor Roberts told me that in 1912 he was a boy at Terrace and he recalled that they were told of Brother Treacy and urged not to make a noise near his room. The Brothers hosed down the lattice outside to cool the room in his last days. On Oct. 12, 1912 he rendered his noble soul to God. He had been 61 years a Christian Brother, 44 in, or in the service of, Australia and New Zealand. It might be appropriate to identify the room in Terrace where he died and mark it with some commemoration, even a shrine; for he was the Founder of this Province as of the others here in Australasia.

Father O'Shea (one of the speakers at the Centenary Religious Life Seminar) added a new Beatitude to the list; Blessed are those who see straight! Their reward is to see God here as well as hereafter. Read the Beatitudes as we heard them in the Gospel today. They are the Charter of Christianity. None of us can say he lives

up to them. The attempt is the way of sanctity. In scale, grandeur, human and divine grace, they are the biography of Patrick Ambrose Treacy.

Simple Plan, Incredible Purpose – Eddie's Van

Louise Wruck

(Taken from the magazine "Australian Catholics")

Close your eyes and envision your life. Not too shabby? Now close your eyes and envision your life without a family, without employment, without a bank account and without a home. You have just become one of the thousands of homeless who struggle to survive on the streets of Australia.

Fortunately, there are some who see the homeless differently. There are people, although they are few, who know the homeless are not worthless, unintelligent, or even very different to ourselves. The members of St Joseph's College are clearly part of this category.

The Catholic all-boys high school situated on Gregory Terrace runs a community outreach program called the Eddie's Van, after their founding Christian Brother, Edmund Rice. The man responsible for the coordination of the van is Mr Dainien Price, the Dean of Mission at Terrace.

When I asked Mr Price why the van was formed, he quoted a saying: "conversion only happens in a relationship." In other words, a genuine relationship with the poor is the only way to effect positive change within the community.

Of a Monday morning, a Tuesday night, and every other working day of the week, the Eddie's Van is loaded with food and donated clothing by the Terrace volunteers and driven to particular locations around the CBD of Brisbane.

From Wickham Terrace to the Botanical Garden, to Kangaroo Point, it meets with the most disadvantaged section of Australian society: the homeless. It offers aid to those who live on the streets, under bridges, in squats and in boarding houses; those who suffer mental illness as a result of drugs or alcohol; those who've run away from home and have nowhere to go.

The volunteers bring aid to an average of thirty people every time the Eddie's Van ventures out of the gates of Terrace. It is their hard work - the teachers, parents and students of Terrace - that makes the program Possible. They give up countless hours of their time to the homeless of Brisbane, ensuring that they have somewhere to turn.

The prospect of young Johnny, hair gelled up into spikes with earphones dangling from his pocket, eyelids drooping from a long night of tapping away at the controller of the latest video game, offering comfort to the poor and destitute seems a surprising one, but Mr Price says they never have a shortage of volunteers. In fact, they actually have more volunteers than they can use.

"Boys love that kind of thing -it's kind of fair dinkum, you know?" he said. "The fact that they want to do it indicates that they see it as important for them."

When I asked Damien if the van provides any services other than food and clothing, he replied that the main thing is "building a sense of community, a sense of family and a sense of being safe." He went on to explain to me that the food isn't really that important, that if they need food they can go to a homeless shelter. The main service that is provided by the volunteers is simply talking to the homeless. Their aim is to ensure that these people feel that they are worth spending time with and worth listening to.

I was touched by the directions Mr Price gives to the volunteers. "We want you to spread out and we want you to do what we believe Jesus did. Jesus met people and he came into their sacred space ... that presence said to the person: You are beautiful. You are special. You are loveable." Most moving of all were Mr Price's final comments. "They treat me as me and labels don't mean anything. You get out there, and you've got the eggs and the sausages and the homeless guys around and you feel a sense of community. For that hour of the day you don't have to play a particular role, you just have to be you."

Setting Out For the Deep – The Brothers' Story

Bro Jim D'Arcy cfc

Setting Out For the Deep

At the January gathering of brothers at St Leo's in Brisbane in 2006, I was surprised and intrigued by the black and white photos on the tables. But they were not the usual photos found in schools and magazines. You know the ones where people are posing for an official photograph, looking fairly serious and formal. Later in a conversation with a Mercy sister, she talked about the Heritage Room in their convent. The thought occurred to me, "How is our heritage as brothers observed in our province centre?" So the idea grew about putting together a collection to honour the memory of these early pioneering brothers.

When I went looking for photographs, I found that the St Francis Xavier archives didn't have many photos of early brothers in Queensland. I had to go to St Mary's province and their archivist, Bro Dominic Obbens, explained why. Until the 1940s most brothers did not possess cameras. If anyone had a camera, it would more likely be the superior of the community. When the brothers went on holidays or picnics he might take some pictures of the brothers relaxing. And from here some brothers took an interest in photography as a hobby. One such keen photographer was Bro Justus Smith who had a rich collection. Fortunately when he died, all his photos were sent to the provincial archives. And as luck would have it, most of his snap-shots are a good cross-section of the brothers in Queensland from the 1930s through the 1940s.

Upon assembling the collection of photographs I was delighted at the quality and range. But it is not meant to be an historical record of all Christian Brothers and CB schools in Queensland. The collection is symbolic of the spirit of the times. I have commented to people that I believe that, besides the obvious significance for the brothers themselves and Edmund Rice network, there is a human quality that makes them interesting. I think I could have put them in some studio as a photographic display and people from off the street would be interested. There is a timeless quality to them.

Humanity

In the process of arranging the photos for display one thing stood out – the humanity. Here were brothers smiling, laughing and enjoying life – young guys clowning around on a bike, others posing in their habits with fish in a row boat, and a few other larrikins there. I thought there must be some mistake, because brothers (especially in the old days) were often portrayed as pretty serious, not having fun. Obviously, there was happiness





and fun back then, but these events were often not documented officially. My guess is that some superiors in those days would not have approved and maybe some guys would have been given a “boot”. The pictures reveal that God was very much present in our humanity.

Theme

From the number of pictures of brothers in boats, it became obvious that “Setting out into the Deep” would be a good overarching theme for the collection. The quest for God has always been at the heart of the spirituality of the Christian Brothers. It was also the theme that captured the journey of the early brothers from Ireland to Australia and how boats were often used to establish new missions along coastline and on rivers.

Community & Mission

As the project took shape, I asked for assistance from Bro Tim Scott who willingly agreed to frame and mount the pictures. Tim was adamant that wherever possible, the name of every brother, as well as the year and school or place be accurately noted. At the top of each photo would be the general heading of either “Mission” or “Community”. The brothers have always seen “community” as the place to nurture and support people in their desire to find God in people. “Mission” is the response of the brothers to serve God in people in a specific place and time.

Looking forward, looking back

Each photograph would also include a contemporary insight. So they are symbolic of change and the new direction of where the congregation is moving. It would be a collection that shows us our past and ,at the same time, how we journey into our future.

Black & White

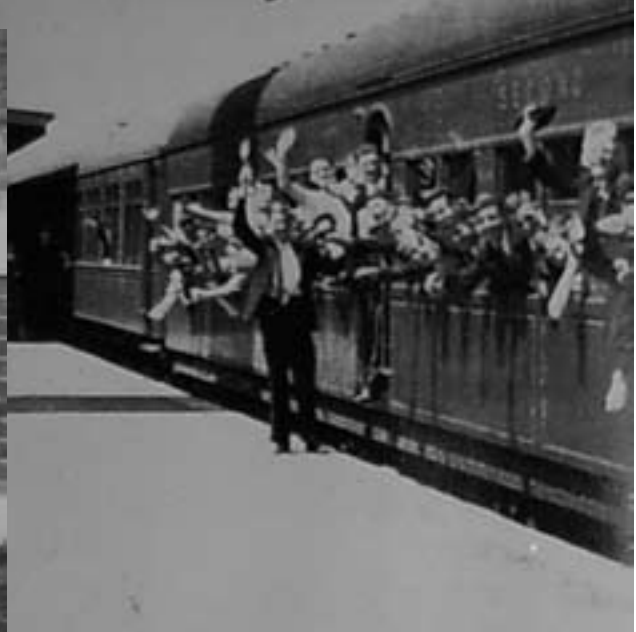
As a medium, black and white is immediately stark and dramatic so we can concentrate on the key aspects in each scene. The photographs represented an era when life was black and white in many ways: the habit itself was black and white; life was tough for the brothers. The choices were pretty black and white- brothers taught in school or were in administration or were retired. Our understanding of life was less complicated and the church had a catechism that taught fundamental truths of the faith in fairly black and white ways.

Launch

As part of the paraliturgy for Founder’s Night, 2006, organized by Mary Murphy, the collection was unveiled with brothers and

various members of the ER network all contributing to mounting each photo on the wall. Here, along the walls of the stairwell facing the river at Indooroopilly these pictures of early pioneering brothers now remain and their contribution and that of all the others is remembered. Unbeknown to us all at the time was the fact that Brisbane would be home to the new Oceanic Province Centre. How fitting!

Some might say that a stairwell is not an appropriate place of honour for such a collection. Yet somehow it feels right. If you go to clubs and organizations the photos typically are of the important people ie presidents, chancellors, politicians, etc. But most of these photos are of ordinary brothers and how appropriate that is- that they on whose shoulders we all stand are placed in the midst of the XPC staff as they go upstairs and downstairs busy about their work and build on their legacy.



Christian Brothers' Mission in the Cook Islands

Bro Vin Hawley cfc

There are two New Zealand Christian Brothers, Br John O'Neill and Br Ben Ryan, living at Nukutere College on the island of Rarotonga. In 2006 I spent eight months with them to make a community of three. It was a wonderful experience in many ways. Bishop Stuart O'Connell sm has a diocese larger in area than France. The Cluny Sisters taught in St Joseph's primary school well before the Brothers arrived in 1976. The present Cluny community consists of four or five members - some local Sisters and Sisters from Fiji and India. Br John O'Neill teaches at the College, lectures at the local campus of the South Pacific University and visits the jail and hospital regularly. Br Ben Ryan retired as College secretary in 2005.

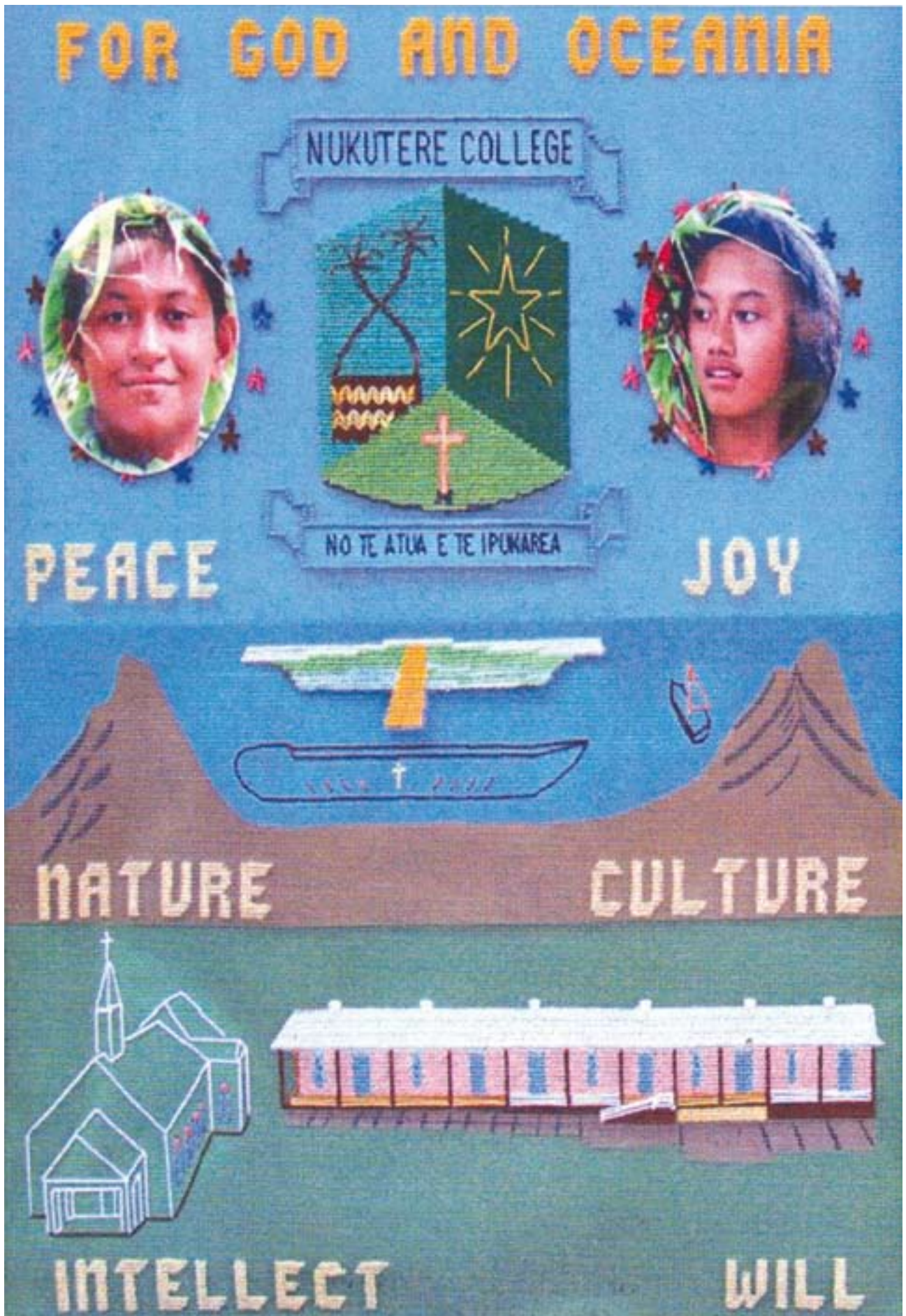
Missionaries came to Rarotonga early in the 19th century. The pioneers were from the London Mission Society and that denomination is now called the Cook Islands Christian Church. The Catholic Mission was started in 1894 by the Picpus Fathers, confreres of Father Damien of Molokai. The current clergy are New Zealand Marist Fathers, two Tongans and two priests from the Philippines.

There are 15 islands in the Cook Islands, some of them uninhabited. Rarotonga is the capital and the largest with 10,000 or more inhabitants and Aitutaki has 2,000. The other islands have a few hundred people at most. Rarotonga is a volcanic island with many large peaks. The road around the island is only 32 kilometres full circle. It has a coral reef and a beautiful lagoon as do most of the others. The climate was not as hot as I had expected with temperatures ranging from 22 degrees to 30 degrees with a very mild winter and spring.

A major event in the school year was the loss by fire of six classrooms one night in February. The New Zealand Government came to the aid of the College by replacing all the rooms and contents through their foreign aid project. The new wing was opened and in operation within six months. The country relies on foreign aid and the main industry is tourism. The people speak both English and Maori. French from Tahiti also has some influence. The people in Church sing beautifully in Maori, English and in Latin. They are extremely friendly and hospitable but many school leavers have to go to New Zealand or elsewhere to find jobs.

The tapestry I did in needlepoint shows the new building of Nukutere College which replaced the wing destroyed by fire in February 2006. It also shows the College Crest and some features of the island which impressed me. The lagoon which is bounded by the ocean swell breaking on the reef and the coconut trees on the beach is spectacular. Between the reef and the beach is 800 metres of coral and fish and crystal clear water. I could not do justice to the beautiful shades of green and blue colours of the lagoon. The College motto is "For God and Nation".







"No, I do not know who had a number one hit with Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep."



"Morven" overlooking the bay



Shelf from the first St Stephen's



Ambrose's Cloak

Trivia Questions

This may be the second last issue of OUR LIFE after 30 years of publishing. The next issue will be a collection, of what I would consider, prophetic articles, taken from editions of OUR LIFE over those thirty years. You would be surprised what Brothers were writing in many of the early editions. It will also be a collection of great photos of communities, Brothers and celebrations over those thirty years. I don't know the future of OUR LIFE in the new Oceania Province scheme of things – but just in case!

However I would throw out to all, some trivia questions to any who may like to have a try at a few answers – I bet Tom Hennessy is rolling in his grave at the chance to answer!

Now some questions – some are easy, some difficult, and some impossible - and the first one is obvious!

1 - How many editors have there been of OUR LIFE and would you like to try to name them?

2 – With publications in mind, when was the first Educational Record printed?

3 – When was the first Necrology printed?

4 – Does any community have a full set of the Educational record and Necrology?

5 – The "Christian Brothers' Readers" – who is the old boy priest who told us at a Jubilee celebration that he still has some copies on his bedside table?

6 – The Brothers' house at St Patrick's Shorncliffe is called "Morven" – the earliest watercolour known of it (by the Editor of 'Our Life') is dated 1880 – where is it?

7 – In this edition of OUR LIFE, mention is made of Ambrose Treacy dying in the house at Terrace. In that room later, was a well known red cedar desk for many Principals, such as, Mark Reidy, Jerome Levander, Stan Adams, Stan Campbell, Del Davy and others, until, in renovations, a Superior had it removed. An old boy rescued it – where is it now? (The button to summon people into the office – added later - is still underneath the central section!) This is the famous desk at which Stan Campbell's famous quote was made. When Provincial and doing Visitation at Terrace, he asked to see the Annals and the Superior at the time didn't have them. Stan said – "When I was Superior, they were in the bottom draw on the right!"

8 – Denis McLaughlin asked one of our Brothers whatever happened to the main gates of St Columban's – good question what did happen to them?

9 – And on the subject of gates – what happened to the arch above the gates of Cardinal Gilroy College, Ingham?

10 – A simple question!! Which Superior said to Charlie Dillon during a community meeting, “Charles, don’t let this discussion, degenerate into an argument!!”?

11 – Now a trick question – Which community may still have a beautiful ciborium presented by Pope Pius X and engraved accordingly?

12 – Some portraits of Ambrose Treacy have him wearing the traditional heavy black cloak. It was passed on to one of our last Irish born Brothers in Australia – so where is that cloak now?

13 – Who gave the flagpole to the Brothers outside the Xavier Centre?

14 – The well known Grandfather clock in the stairwell of the Brothers’ house in Maryborough, that Matt McGrath would carefully tend to – which of our schools has it now?

15 – And on the subject of clocks – our very hard working and dedicated Christian Brothers’ Parents’ Auxiliary presented a clock to the Novitiate at Helidon. Which school foyer is it in now?

16 – From clocks to Mary! There was a mosaic of Our Lady of Perpetual Help outside the Chapel at Xavier and now outside the Chapel at Taringa. Who was the Brother responsible for organising it to come from Rome for the opening of our Training College at Xavier in 1970?

17 – Helidon Novitiate also had a mosaic of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, set in a sandstone shrine. Which Brother organised its removal and which of our schools is it at now?

18 – Now for the Sherlock Holmes among you! Ambrose Treacy began our first school in Queensland in the old St Stephen’s which included the wooden extension at the side. When the Chapel (Brisbane’s first Cathedral) was restored, there were no examples of any woodwork from the original Cathedral (so it was thought) but Archbishop James Duhig gave a Brisbane family a little shelf that the statue of Mary stood on – so it was in our first classroom. Where is it now?

19 – Which Brother buried many cats as fertilizer below the trees and shrubs at Mt Carmel Charters Towers and wasn’t buried with his vow sheet in his hands but with a Western magazine?

20 – Which Brother made the statement – ‘that he was doing the good role as a Superior if he gave every Brother in the community a boot once a week!’? (Clue: He’s in the photo)

There is an answer for each question! One or two may be impossible to answer. Do I dare offer a prize for the person who answers the most questions correctly? I know some questions are probably unknown to many Brothers but have a go – you may want to know the answers! Write to me at the Christian Brothers at Taringa or e-mail me on timscott@bigpond.net.au



The Xavier Mosaic



On the way to Strathfield

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Clear printed text is also accepted.

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