Secular Franciscan Order

Celebrating 800 years

1221-2021

Everyday Catholics following Christ
in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi

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Compiled by Mary R. Mennis ofs
Holy Spirit Fraternity
Kedron, Queensland
Australia.

4th May 2021.

Author's Note

Mary Mennis ofs at Kedron.

I am the compiler of these notes on the history of the Secular Franciscans and in particular the Kedron Fraternity. I am not really the author. There are many people to thank. Jenny Gibson wrote the *History of the Third Order of St Francis in Australia 1879 – 1979* including a passage about the Fraternity at Kedron. Joan Jowett ofs wrote up her experiences very neatly by hand and I thank her for this. I interviewed John Dunne about his time as Minister and Elizabeth Arthy provided feedback as well. It has been interesting to have lived through all this time in the Fraternity and I have made many lasting friendships. Trish Sharkey has helped with editing and I thank her for that.

I was admitted to the Fraternity in 1987 and professed in 1989 so have been a member for over thirty years now. Jenny Gibson was my formator and I was impressed with her knowledge of the Franciscan spirituality. She gave us written homework to be handed in at each meeting which were held at the Portiuncula Church. Five of us made our profession that year. Now I am the only active member left of that group and Eunice Jackson is an isolated member.

I lived in Papua New Guinea between 1962 and 1982 and since then I have made many visits to that country and written many books on its culture and history. In 2015 I was delighted to meet a large group of inquirers to the Secular Franciscan Order in Madang and was able to help them with pamphlets, books and rosaries. They were very spiritual and eager to learn about St Francis. One of the goals of the Kedron Fraternity is to help Secular Franciscans in Papua New Guinea. During his final years, Father Norbert Pittorino ofm was the connection with PNG.

In 2015 Mary Mennis is seen here in the middle of a group of enthusiastic inquirers from Rempi village, at the Alexishafen Mission near Madang in PNG. There are over a hundred professed members in this group as well.

Relationship with Spiritual Assistants today

In the time of St Francis of Assisi there was a growing conflict between the great powers and also economic disruption caused by the shift in control from the feudal lords to the new city states. New religious groups and ideas challenged the ability of the Catholic Church to communicate the Gospel. People felt distant from the Church and from God. St Francis of Assisi creatively responded to the crisis of the world around him by passionately living the Gospel. Through humble service, treating everyone he met with compassion and respect, he inspired people, lay and religious, to come together to live the Gospel life anew. The Franciscan movement did not start with rules and organisation but as an inspired response to the Gospel message.

Fr Joe McKay OFM

The Secular Franciscans' relationship to the First Order has a varied and complex history. The *Memoriale Propositi* written by Cardinal Ugolino in 1221 was vague about the relationship with the Friars. The current Rule of the Order of Secular Franciscans, approved by Pope Pius VI in 1978, following Vatican II, recognised the OFS as an autonomous lay lead and directed organisation but stated a clearer fraternal and spiritual relationship with the Friars. The OFS Rule sees the role of the Spiritual Assistants to the local fraternity as "a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility" (OFS Rule 26) for our shared charism together. The primary task of the Spiritual Assistant being "to communicate Franciscan spirituality and to co-operate in the initial and continuing formation of the brothers and sisters." (OFS GC Art 90) In 2021 the Friars Minor in Australia are falling in number, ageing, and the support for the Secular Franciscans is less visible and present than in past times. The fraternal relationship is one that continues to inspire. It is through the OFS that the Franciscan Family truly comes together, uniting the three orders of friars in ministry, and proclaiming the presence of God in the fabric of people's daily lives. We are on the journey together. The Holy Spirit is the patron of the Kedron fraternity. We need to continue to ask the Spirit to move our hearts so that we can truly carry out mission "to build a more fraternal and evangelical world" (OFS Rule 14) and by humble service proclaim the Kingdom of God. Reflecting on how the Spirit has touched our lives together, should help us see the gifts we have been given to share, so we can move forward courageously on the Way.

Today, eight hundred years from the time of St Francis and the early Brothers and Sisters of Penance, we see the unravelling of the certainty of the post-World War II order and the economic disruptions caused by a new digital age. The Catholic Church's ability to communicate the Gospel is challenged: by growing secularism, individualism, consumerism, the changing understanding of the role of women, and the sexual abuse scandal. In Australia we are seeing a crisis of faith with low Church attendance, especially amongst young people. Our response? To go from life to Gospel, Gospel to life, creatively & faithfully, in humble service, living the Gospel anew! The Kingdom of God is near!

The Secular Franciscan Order

St Francis was born in 1182, in Assisi, Italy and died October 3, 1226, Assisi. He was canonized July 16, 1228. His feast day is October 4. He was the founder of the Franciscan Orders of the Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, (the Poor Clares) and the lay Third Order. He was also a leader of the movement of evangelical poverty in the early 13th century.

His evangelical zeal, consecration to poverty, charity, and personal charisma drew thousands of followers. Francis's devotion to the human Jesus and his desire to follow Jesus' example reflected and reinforced important developments in medieval spirituality.

The Poverello ("Poor Little Man") is one of the most venerated religious figures in Roman Catholic history, He lived only for 44 years; but within such short period, he gathered around him thousands of men and women, who gave up everything to follow the path of Christ.

For men, he founded the Order of Friars Minor; for women, the Order of Saint Clare; and for the householders, the Third Order of Saint Francis. Around two years before his death, he received the stigmata in a religious ecstasy, becoming the first recorded person to do so. Shortly after his death, he was canonized by the Pope and was also designated Patron Saint of Italy.

The Feast of All saints of the Seraphic Order of St Francis

On November 29, the Church celebrates the many Franciscan saints who followed in the footsteps of St. Francis. It is a special day for all Franciscans to celebrate the feast of 'All the Saints of the Seraphic Order.'

According to tradition, St. Francis of Assisi prayed the following prayer: "O Lord Jesus Christ, two favors I beg of you before I die. The first is that I may, as far as it is possible, feel in my soul and in my body the suffering in which you, O gentle Jesus, sustained in your bitter passion. And the second favor is that I, as far as it is possible, may receive in my heart that excessive charity by which you, the Son of God, were inflamed, and which actuated you willingly to suffer so much for us sinners."

In response to his earnest prayer, the Lord appeared in the form of a seraph, or a six-winged angel (They are usually considered the highest order of angelic beings, immediately above the Cherubim, and their special duty is to love God).

Then Jesus bestowed on St. Francis the wounds of his suffering. St. Francis marked with the love of Christ, the stigmata, died two years later in 1226, leaving the world the Franciscan Order, which became synonymous with the Seraphic Order. To this day, seraph wings and seraphs are symbolic of the Franciscan Order.

The final Rule of life for Franciscan friars was approved in 1223. To commemorate this, and all the saintly examples produced in the Franciscan Order, on 29th November all the saints of the Seraphic order are remembered at Franciscan churches.

St Elizabeth of Hungary Patron of the Third Order

At the age of 14, Elizabeth was married to Louis of Thuringia, whom she deeply loved. She bore three children. Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would take bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate.

After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and Elizabeth was grief-stricken. In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order, spending the remaining few years of her life caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth's health declined, and she died before her 24th birthday in 1231. Her great popularity resulted in her canonization four years later. From her support of the friars sent to Thuringia, she was made known to the founder, St Francis of Assisi, who sent her a personal message of blessing shortly before his death in 1226. Upon her canonization she was declared the patron saint of the Third Order of St Francis, an honor she shares with St Louis IX of France. [web]

St Louis IX of France

Louis was born in 1214. Louis built orphanages, libraries, and hospitals for the people of France. He built Sainte-Chapelle in Paris as a home for Jesus' crown of thorns. He supported the building of the Sorbonne, a college in Paris. He brought peace to his people. He kept a list of the needy throughout his realm and used his own money and tax money to feed them. Because justice reigned in France, peace followed. Louis died in 1270, when he was 56. Throughout his kingdom, people mourned his death. His holiness had been a blessing to them. He is the only king of France who is a saint, declared so in 1297. [web].

Famous People who were members of the Third Order of Francis

Notable people have followed this rule and embraced this life, Popes, Cardinals, Kings, and Queens. Holy Fathers Gregory IX, Blessed Gregory X, Innocent XII, Pius IX, St. Pius X, Popes Martin V, Clement XII, and Pope John XXIII were also 3rd Order members and all the Popes succeeding Pius IX to Pope John XXIII. Cardinals St. Charles Borromeo, Manning, Vaughan, Kings St. Louis IX of France, St. Ferdinand of Spain, and Queens St. Elizabeth of Portugal, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary were a few out of many tertiaries of nobility and stature. Other prominent people in the 3rd Order include Christopher Columbus, Dante, Michelangelo, and Raphael. There were also notable business men and workers in the 3rd Order. Blessed Peter of Sienna, Blessed Luchesio, a merchant, and dock worker Matt Talbot. Third Order parents of St. Therese the Little Flower, and the mother of St. Maria Goretti [web].

The early Franciscans of the Third Order

Early in his ministry Francis of Assisi recognised the need to include within his movement of reform and renewal, people who lived the common life. The work of following Christ in simplicity, love and joy could not be restricted to the traditional religious life of the Friars and Sisters. This was true in the twelfth century and it remains so today; it is the vocation of all Christians.

Blessed Buonadonna and her husband, Blessed Luchesio Modestini.

The first two people to join the Third Order were Blessed Buonadonna and her husband, Blessed Luchesio Modestini. They came from the little town of Poggibonsi in Tuscany, Italy. Luchesio was a rich merchant and knew Francis when he also worked as a merchant with his father. At that stage they were both practical workers wanting to get rich and were not that interested in religion. Luchesio's wife Buonadonna was just as keen to heap up money.

Before he heard Francis preach, Luchesio had already had a change of heart and decided to give some of his wealth to the poor. His wife, Buonadonna, was not keen at first until she was told to give bread to the hungry people. She went to the cupboard and it was miraculously full of loaves of bread. Both of them saw this as a sign and began to follow a life of poverty. They sold their business, keeping just enough property for their needs and gave the rest to the poor.

When Luchesio and Buonadonna heard Francis preach, they wanted to join him in his life of poverty. Francis remembered Luchesio from their earlier life as merchants and was delighted to see how he had changed his ways. When Luchesio met with Francis again, he asked him to instruct him and his wife so that they might lead a life in the world that would be pleasing to God. It was then that Francis explained to them his plan for lay people. Luchesio and Buonadonna asked to be received into this way of life immediately. Thus, according to tradition Luchesio and Buonadonna became the first members of the Order of Penance which later came to be called the Third Order of St Francis and is now known as the Secular Franciscan Order. [Fr Norbert Pittorino ofm *Living the Gospel* 2005: 16].

The Third Order Secular consists of people, married or single, priests or laity; who through following the ordinary professions of life feel called to a life-long dedication to Our Lord as Instruments of His Peace, they seek to fulfill the special aims of the Third Order through the three avenues of service.

Photograph of Assisi.

The Three Aims of the Secular Franciscans

1. To make our Lord known and loved everywhere

By word and example Secular Franciscans witness to Christ in their daily lives. By prayer and sacrifice they help forward God's work wherever he has called them.

2. To spread the spirit of love and harmony

By working happily with people of different race, colour, creed, education and opportunity Secular Franciscans seek to break down the divisions in the world. They try to live in the spirit of Saint Francis' prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. They also study the life and spirituality of Francis.

3. To live simply

Acknowledging that everything belongs to God, Secular Franciscans will use their gifts wisely, never wasting or destroying what God has made. They will provide the things necessary for themselves and their families without demanding luxuries. They will never forget the needs of others in their own country or elsewhere.

The Three Ways of Service

1. Prayer

Secular Franciscans are called to live in an attitude of prayer; of openness to God and to others. Prayer is of primary importance, and the Eucharist is the heart of our prayer.

2. Study

While members give first place to the study of the Scriptures they also seek to widen their understanding of the Church's mission, of their Christian calling, and of God's world.

3. Work

Secular Franciscans will seek to discover what God wants them to do. In their daily work and in their free time they will try to serve God and work for the good of others. The best service they can offer is to reflect the love of Christ, and to show his joy and peace to others.

Beginnings In Australia

The first Franciscan to arrive on the shores of Australia was Friar Laurent Receveur, a Frenchman (1757-1788). He was a young priest-scientist who was commissioned by King Louis XVI to assist the Lapérouse expedition to circumnavigate the globe to gather new plants to be used in medicine. Landing at Botany Bay (Sydney) only a few days after the First Fleet, Receveur died unexpectantly on 17 February 1788. To this day, Franciscans and the French Consulate annually hold a ceremony at Receveur's grave honouring his memory. The expedition consisted of two ships - *La Boussole* and *L'Astrolabe*. They carried a total of 225 crew, officers and scientists. The ships left France in August 1785 and sailed south around Cape Horn. The voyage was expected to last four years but it ended in disaster after they left Botany Bay.

In 1879 the Friars were given an area in eastern Sydney to establish a Franciscan Mission. The key areas of that mission were Paddington, Edgecliff and the Waverley Parishes, but the area from which they were originally responsible stretched from Watson's Bay down to the edge of Botany Bay. The Franciscan Friars have had a long tradition within Australian Catholic parishes, ever since Fr Bonaventure Geoghegan was installed in 1838 as the first and only parish priest for Melbourne. In reality, his district covered all of Victoria.

Their engagement with Sydney and Melbourne grew and in 1939 the Australian Franciscans were established as a Province. They spread across Australia and into New Zealand and Asia as follows: Box Hill in Melbourne (1936); to Campbelltown (1934); parishes in Adelaide, friary and parish in Brisbane (1929) and Padua College in Brisbane (1956); to various parishes in Western Australia (beginning in 1950); to New Zealand in 1939 Work began in Singapore in 1958 establishing St Anthony Friary in 1970 with a move into Malaysia in 1999.

Throughout our history as Franciscans and as a province (Australia, New Zealand) and a custody (Singapore), we have always endeavoured to listen to the signs of the times and to respond with generosity to the call to reach out to those in need.

An illustration of the Ships of the La Perouse expedition which arrived in Botany Bay in February 1788.

Friar Laurent Receveur was on board one of them and always celebrated Mass.

A History Of The Third Order Of St. Francis In Australia

1879-1979

By Jenny Gibson

Franciscan priests were in Australia from the beginning of white settlement here. However, the first permanent Franciscan community was not established until 6th June 1879, when two friars took up formal residence at Waverley, N.S.W. Their parish consisted of what are now the Eastern suburbs of Sydney: "It extended from Watson's Bay along the sea coast to Botany Bay, that is, about 20 miles in length and averaging three miles in width."[1] [Jenny Gibson]. Six weeks later, on July 18th, Mrs. Mary Letitia Logue was received into the Third Order of St. Francis. Mrs. Logue was a generous lady who had donated the site of the Friary and Church. The original register of membership opens with these words: "Third Order of St. Francis established in the Franciscan Church, Waverley, July 18th, 1879." Nine more novices were received on August 2nd, 1879, by Fr. J. P. Hanrahan, O.F.M. This date is taken as being the beginning of the Waverley Fraternity. [2]

By the end of 1882 a total of 68 people had been received into the Third Order. In 1882 Fr. Hanrahan, one of the two founding friars, reported that the Third Order was established in the parish of Paddington. Three years later the Third Order for men and women is established in four of the Franciscan Churches." [3] These would have been Waverley, Paddington, Edgecliff, and possibly either Watsons Bay or Randwick, since the Franciscans then had care of this whole area.

Fr. Patrick Bonaventure Kennedy, O.F.M. came to Australia in 1886, and played a vital role in the establishment of the First and Third Orders. He undertook the care of the Third Order in Waverley in 1914. "In him the Third Order found its most ardent promoter. A keen watcher of the trend of events, he foresaw its spiritual and social value to the community and laid the foundations on which those who came after him have built so well and are still building. Tertiaries were received by him in distant places and in every State and have remained faithful to their pledge."[4]

1. Report to Ireland by Fr. Hanrahan.
2. Report given on Third Order for General Visitator in February, 1939.
3. "Calendar of Documents" (copied from Irish Franciscan archives) compiled by Fr. Celsus Kelly, O.F.M.
4. "The Crusader," August, 1933.

In Victoria, the first tertiaries were received in 1883, by Fr. John J. Graber, D.D., who returned from Propaganda College Rome at that time, bringing with him Faculties for the Reception and Profession of tertiaries into the Third Order of St. Francis. He soon made use of these Faculties, as the entry in the Waverley register of the names of isolated tertiaries from Melbourne testifies.

In 1889, it was decided that a Fraternity should be established in Melbourne and, both because of its dedication to the Founder of the Order and of its central position, St. Francis' Church was chosen as the most suitable place for its establishment. On Sunday, October 20th, the Fraternity was formally established by the late Archbishop Thomas Carr.7 Fr. Graber was the first Spiritual Assistant for the Fraternity. This Fraternity remained under the Spiritual guidance of the diocesan clergy until 1968, when the friars took over the responsibility. Prior to this date, from about 1932, the friars would help out if the Spiritual Assistant was unable to attend, and also carry out the annual record keeping.

The National Third Order Office probably had its beginnings in 1930. It was formed in response to the large number of inquiries received about the Third Order following the printing of "Third Order Topics" in "The Crusader." It began as a "special department" within "The Crusader" office,

During a meeting held in 1932, the following list of Fraternities was drawn up The Kedron fraternity is now in its third year.

Sydney Archdiocese:
Waverley established 02.8.1879
Edgecliff (Woollahra) established between 1879 & 1882
Paddington established between 1879 & 1882
Concord established 26.7.1932
Paramatta established 31.7.1932
Lithgow established 23.8.1932
Manly established 12.9.1932
The last five were under the direction of the Diocesan Clergy.

Maitland Diocese:
Adamstown established 07.12.1931

Melbourne Archdiocese:
Melbourne established 20.10.1889
Ascot Vale established 20.11.1931

Perth Archdiocese:
Perth established 16.7.1930

Brisbane Archdiocese:
Kedron established 29.7.1929

(Page 6 A History of the 3rd Order by Jenny Gibson.)

1921: 700 years since the founding of the Third Order

The 7th centennial celebrations were held at Waverley on 16th, 17th and 18th September, 1921. Fr Kennedy was the life and soul of the Third Order of St. Francis, especially in its early days at Waverley. Under his enthusiastic guidance the Third Order of St. Francis became widely known and appreciated.

St. Francis of Assisi and His Third Order

(THE SEVENTH CENTENARY. Newspaper article 1921).

The novel experience of celebrating the seventh centenary of a saint, in his work, is the prized privilege of the children of St. Francis of Assisi scattered throughout the world this year, 1921. In 1209 the saint established an Order for priests and brothers living under vows, which is known as the Franciscan First Order. In 1212 he established a Second Order for Nuns: the Poor Clares.

In 1221 he established a Third Order, for the people living in the world and pursuing their ordinary vocations in life, and he drew up a very simple rule of life for them, which any good, earnest Catholic might easily observe.

The Supreme Pontiffs have ever taken an immense interest in the propagation of this Order, enriching it with some of the Church's most precious favours. The reigning Pontiff, Pope Benedict XV., is particularly attached to it, being admitted to its ranks in the celebrated Church of Ara Coeli, Rome, whilst yet a young priest, in 1282. Pope Pius X., his immediate predecessor, was a member also. So was Pope Leo XIII., who organised it as one of the greatest favours God had conferred upon him, and who used to say that, as a mark of his devotion to St. Francis, he wished to write his last will and testament on him. Pope Pius IX., of holy memory, was another most devoted member.

By order of his present Holiness, the Franciscans, wherever they may find themselves throughout the world this year, and those secular priests who have charge ~of congregations of Tertiaries, are instructed to commemorate the foundation of the Order by holding a solemn Triduum in their churches.

In Sydney, the celebrations will take place in the Church of Mary Immaculate and St. Charles, at Waverley, on Friday. Saturday

and Sunday, the 16th, 17th and I8th inst. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate and his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney have graciously extended their patronage to it. There will be a Solemn High Mass each day at 10.30 a.m., and Solemn Benediction each evening, at 7.30. Special sermons on the history, nature, scope and fruits of the Order will be delivered by distinguished preachers morning and evening. As an appreciation or the Order, to make the occasion truly memorable, and to attract the faithful to the ceremonies, his Holiness grants special favours to those who shall take part in the celebrations. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all, on the usual conditions, once during the time. Tertiaries gain the Plenary Indulgence each day. For every visit *'toties quoties,'* paid to the Blessed Sacrament an indulgence of seven years is granted. All altars in the church are declared privileged altars. Every priest may say a Votive Mass of St. Francis, and all the priests attached to the said churches have special faculties during the time for blessing beads, medals, and other religious objects.

Spirit of St Francis by Father Cobb 1921. – article written in 1921

The great event of the year (1921) is the celebration of the seventh centenary of the Third Order of St. Francis, which has exercised its powerful and influence for good during the long course of its existence. Already the event has been commemorated brilliantly in Rome, at the Ara Coeli. In Assisi itself, where the priceless memory of the Saint is preserved undimmed, the celebrations are fixed for September 15th, 16th, and 17th. St. Francis exerted a curious fascination over his contemporaries. His doings and sayings were faithfully recorded by his followers, and admirers.

It was a contemporary who wrote his first life, then St. Bonaventure, then a host of others too numerous to mention. After the flight of seven centuries his fascination, still endures. Non-Catholics write enthusiastically about him, in glowing terms that tremble with love and admiration. In sooth they are a thousand leagues away from understanding the true spirit of the Saint. They fail to realise that the whole soul of Francis, the whole of his body down to the last hair on his head, were dedicated and consecrated to God. 'My God and my all!' was his constant cry.

Truth to tell, Francis carried out his love of poverty to the very highest ideal, because he knew that possessions are the grappling-hooks that hold down the soul from soaring upwards towards God.

These modern writers rave about his love for animals, his touching familiarity with them. ‘ Men today love cats, dogs, horses, for the heart of man must love something, and if God denied it, let human beings or animals fill up the void. I fear men love animals so much because they love God so little. Not so Francis. He loved every living being down to ‘Brother Worm.’ He claimed kinship with all nature, for that it sprang from the same Father, Almighty, hence the birds were ‘his little sisters,’ and the fierce wolf ‘his brother.’ These modern men admire ‘his radiant joyousness’ as he walked the byways of Umbria, gaily carolling the songs of Provence as he went along. The latest writer -on Assisi, the French novelist Gabriel Faura, styles it ‘joie de vivre,’ a term that recalls Parisian boulevards, the gilded joys of the Riviera, or California, the joy that men seek by drinking to the last drop all the pleasure that can be got out of life. The source of our Saint’s infectious joyfulness was so utterly different. He had that vision of God which is given to the pure of heart, that divine comfort which comes to those who mourn, the very key of the Kingdom of Heaven that hangs by the side of the poor in spirit.

We love his deep-seated humility, which prevented him all his life from aspiring to the high honour, of the priesthood; which caused him at death to wish to be buried on the College d’lnfarno, that hated hill near Assisi where criminals were executed. Who that has read that Franciscan classic, ‘The Little Flowers of St. Francis,’ does not recall many beautiful instances of this virtue of the Saint?

‘We love his utter lack of- pretence, his hatred of hypocrisy. One remembers that oft-quoted saying of his: ‘What a man is in the sight of God, so much he is and no more.’ He was once ordered to wear a. fox-skin beneath his wretched, tattered garment for the sake of warmth. Francis consented on one condition, that a similar skin should be stitched outside his habit.

We love, his democratic spirit, so much in keeping with these times. He knew the common people, worked along with them in the fields, dwelt in their midst, understood full well the heavy burdens under which they groaned? And loving, we long to imitate. The spirit of St. Francis was infused into the laity by means of the Third Order - a potent factor in the history of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. May it not be as powerful a factor for good in the twentieth century? It is for the laity to answer. [Father Cobb].

The Blessings Of The Third Order. (Written In 1921)

A great Catholic Centenary of 700 years has a special social significance.

In an appeal to Franciscan Tertiaries, Father Cuthbert, O.S.F.O., says: 'The Franciscan Order has, from its infancy, considered itself specially commissioned by God to oppose the selfishness and luxury of the world.' Never was the work of the devoted men land women who belong to this pious confraternity of greater importance than to-day. Never has it promised larger results.

Selfishness and luxury have once more, as in St Francis' time, become abominable vices, of the social body. To oppose a barrier to this insidious plague and to check the spread of frivolous license, has become an imperative social necessity. But the brave work must be done by men and women of the world.

There is the splendid opportunity for the members of the Third Order, for, says Father Cuthbert, 'St. Francis founded his Order for all whose souls revolted against the corruption and sin of the time, and when he extended his Order so as to embrace men and women living in the world, he created a hostile camp in the midst of the world itself to do battle with the social immorality in a degenerate age. The century of St. Francis was like our own, a time of great social disturbance and discontent. There were feuds and fierce rivalries which drove men like Dante into exile. There was vulgar luxury and display of finery and ostentatious wealth beside squalid poverty. There was hard-heartedness towards the poor and contempt for those of lowly station.

To a society thus rent asunder St. Francis appealed, not as an ordinary social reformer, by criticising the evil tendencies, but rather by pointing out a higher ideal namely, poverty. He himself espoused poverty, and filled the hearts of others with the same lofty love for her. Thus did he become the great social reformer of his time. The Third Order came into being because numerous men and women, who could not leave the world, earnestly desired to realise the ideals of the Poor Man of Assisi. It has been well said that this movement was a great social reformation; it led people forward to Heaven, by making the way on earth straighter and moving unto Heaven. It dealt not with general abstract principles, but with the actual facts of the world - the civic feuds, the selfishness, the luxuriousness and effeminacy of the thirteenth century.

Blessings of the Third Order.

We speak of our age as the age of democracy. But the age which prides itself on being such, is also the age of fierce industrialism, the age which saw the rise of the sweat-shop, the beginning of child labour, the work of mothers in factories, and the grinding of the wage-earner under the heel of capitalism. The labour union act much-needed social legislation are only, beginning to do away with the worst evils of a distinctively industrial civilisation. But all attempts at social reform will be without avail until people realise the needs of socialising, not just the means of production in an industrial society.

Exalting poverty and teaching charity, St. Francis and his followers brought about social justice. The Abbe Monier, in his 'History of St. Francis,' quite correctly claims: 'The Third Order may be said to be one of the greatest efforts ever attempted for introducing more justice among people. They, the Secular Franciscans changed the existing social order in favour of the weak and humble.'

Holy Father's Encyclical

No wonder Pope Benedict hopes for an awakening of the Third Order from the coming Centenary observance. Referring to the evils of our day which he desires to see overcome, he says in his pronouncement: 'if we consider carefully, there are at present two passions prevailing in this incredible perversity of customs: the unbounded love of riches and an unquenchable thirst for pleasure'.

Thence the shame of our age, that while progressing unceasingly in the conveniences and comforts of life, it seems eager to hurry back to the corruption of paganism. And, in truth, the more people lose sight of the eternal graces prepared for them in Heaven, the more are they attracted towards earth. Every virtue in them easily becomes extinct, so that, nauseated by everything spiritual; they covet the intoxication of vulgar pleasures. We generally observe that while on the one side there is no moderation in accumulating riches, on the other is wanting that resignation of old times to suffering, the discomforts that accompany poverty and misery and while among proletarians and rich the fierce fight we spoke of is raging, the aversion to the needy is sharpened by the immoderate luxury of many united to a brazen licentiousness.

Let us hope, with the Supreme Pontiff that many will realise that through the imitation of St Francis, the way and the return to Christ lies ever hope of future salvation.

Note. The pontiff referred to is Pope Benedict XV who died on 22 January 1922 after seven years in office. He was buried in the grottos of Saint Peter's Basilica. With his diplomatic skills and his openness towards modern society, "he gained respect for himself and the papay" [web].

The Year 1953: (Jenny Gibson OFS)

This year provided two events which must have helped fulfil the dreams of those who wished to give impetus to the Third Order. The first of these was the long-promised

Jenny and Fr Carmel Flora OFM Cap

1. National Conference. A golden opportunity was provided for such a national meeting when in April 1953 Sydney was host for the International Eucharistic Congress. Tertiaries would surely be coming from all over Australia and New Zealand, so why not bring them together at a Third Order Convention? While the Convention was spread over three days the programme was not very full, so that tertiaries could be free to join in with the general exercises of the Eucharistic Congress. The main part of the programme was on Sunday 12th April, and commenced with a special address by Bishop Stewart of Sandhurst Diocese, which was followed by Benediction.

Following afternoon tea 800 tertiaries assembled in St. Charles' Hall to hear fraternity reports and talks on tertiary life. Later in the evening an informal discussion was held. The next morning a Solemn Mass was celebrated and the Minister Provincial, Fr. Joseph Gleeson, O.F.M., addressed the tertiaries. In the evening a Franciscan concert was held. On the Tuesday evening a meeting of Councillors from all the fraternities represented was held. In all thirty-five Councillors attended. These represented five Sydney fraternities, Melbourne, Kedron, Perth and three New Zealand Fraternities. The Provincial Commissary of the Third Order, Fr. Kiaran O'Connell, O.F.M., Fr. Ambrose Ryan, O.F.M., who chaired the meeting, and the Directors of the Fraternities in N.S.W. also attended. This meeting no doubt provided an opportunity for presenting to the interstate and New Zealand Councillors the steps taken in Sydney the previous year to "renew" the Third Order.

2. Third Order Day. The year 1953 also saw the establishment of World Third Order Day. A letter to all the tertiaries from the Commissary Provincial, Fr. Kiaran, says in part: "Following a recent conference between the four Franciscan Ministers General, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor (Most Rev. Augustine Sepinski, O.F.M.) issued a most important letter in which… important regulations which directly concern each individual tertiary, are contained." The second of these regulations stated: "A World Third Order Day must be held on the second Sunday in October, or as near as possible to this date.' (This will be a day of special celebration to be observed by each Fraternity)." From the beginning in Australia, Fraternities joined together on a regional basis to celebrate World Third Order Day.

In Melbourne "About 250 tertiaries from the three metropolitan fraternities (St. Augustine's, Melbourne; Kew; Box Hill) combined to celebrate the first World Third Order Day at Sacred Heart Church, Kew, on Sunday 11th October at 3 p.m. After the Crown of Joys of Our Lady was recited, Fr. Stephen, ofm.M., imparted the Indulgenced Blessing to all present. This was followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and the congregation then adjourned to the hail for the social portion of the afternoon. "Fr. Stephen read a letter of greeting from Rev. Kiaran O'Connell, ofm.

Queensland Regional Council:

As with the N.S.W. and Victorian Regional Councils, the Fraternities in Queensland — all in the Brisbane area — had occasionally met together before the actual formation of the Regional Council took place. These get-togethers were generally to celebrate some special occasion.

The first report of such an occasion refers to a Day of Recollection held at Kedron in July 1953. This coincided with the Annual Visitation of the Kedron and Crypt Fraternities. Prior to 1952, when the Crypt Fraternity, and the Petrie Terrace Fraternity (for Italian speaking people) under the care of the Capuchin Friars, were established, Kedron had been the only Third Order Fraternity in Brisbane and Queensland.

A fourth Fraternity, also under the care of the Capuchin Friars, was established at Wynnum in 1953. Another occasion on which three of the four Fraternities gathered together was when "on 11th October, 1955, the Third Order Fraternities of Brisbane —Wynnum, Kedron and Crypt — gathered for High Mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Rev. Fr. Claude ofm. Cap., celebrated the Mass, assisted by clerics from the local Capuchin seminary. Fr. Kiaran ofm, preached the congratulatory sermon, and read the official letter from the Minister General of the Franciscan Order proclaiming Archbishop Duhig 'a member of the Order by affiliation. This is the highest honour the Order can confer.' (1)

On April 18th, 1971, the Queensland Regional Council was formed. "Three Brisbane Fraternities (Kedron, Crypt and Wynnum) held a combined meeting at the Capuchin Monastery, Wynnum North, hosted by Fr. Carmel Flora ofm.Cap. about 40 Tertiaries attended, accompanied by Fr. Brendan Rogers ofm., and Fr. Boniface Cotter ofm, Spiritual Assistants to Kedron and Crypt Fraternities. "After a normal Fraternity meeting in the chapel, Fr. Brendan spoke informally about the need to form a Regional Council for Queensland, and the meeting decided to appoint two representatives from each Fraternity. A brief Regional Council meeting concluded the afternoon." The Council agreed to meet every three months. (2)

After the Crypt Fraternity amalgamated with Kedron Fraternity in June 1972, Wynnum and Kedron Fraternities continued the Regional Council with two members each representing the Fraternities. However, at a combined meeting in April, 1974, it was decided to change the structure of the Council. "In future the Council will consist of six officers — three from Kedron and three from Wynnum with the senior members retiring in rotation after a year in office, and being replaced by new nominees." (3) The absence of Petrie Terrace Fraternity from the Regional Council activities is explained by the language barrier. Petrie Terrace Fraternity is composed of Italian speaking people, who are possibly non-English speaking, or at least feel they are not sufficiently fluent in English to participate. They are, of course, invited to all functions.

(1). Franciscan Newsletter, May, 1967.
(2). Tertiary News, October, 1955.
(3). Franciscan Newsletter, July, 1974.

The New Rule. 1978

On June 24th, 1978, Pope Paul VI formally approved the new Rule for the Third Order of St. Francis. Two things stand out in this Rule: firstly, our name has been changed to Secular Franciscan Order; and secondly, the responsibility for the running of the Order has been placed squarely on the shoulders of the members of the Order.

In November, 1978, a copy of the Rule in Latin and Italian was received. A provisional translation was made by Fr. Gerard Bushell, O.F.M., editor of the Franciscan Newsletter. This translation was made so that a copy of the Rule could be made available to the delegates at the January Congress. The delegates would then take this copy back to their Fraternities so that discussion and implementation of the Rule could begin. The official translation has now been received and distributed to all members. Talks given at the Congress, although based on the interim "Way of Life", provided a starting point for discussion on the Rule, as they dealt with the essential spirit of the Order and our way of life.

The web: In 1978, the Third Order of Saint Francis was reorganised and given a new Rule of Life by Pope Paul VI. With the new rule, the name used by the Third Order Secular was changed to the Secular Franciscan Order. Under this new Rule, the tertiaries of the Franciscan movement were set up as an autonomous Order, with their own Minister General as head of the Order. They were removed from the jurisdiction of the friars of the First Order and of the Third Order Regular. The Order is now known as the Secular Franciscan Order (abbreviated as O.F.S.) The Secular Franciscan Order is a fully recognized order within the Catholic church and part of the Franciscan family. The present active membership of the Order worldwide is about 350,000. A summary of the elements of Franciscan spirituality, includes living in communion with Christ poor and crucified, in the love of God, and in brother/sisterhood with all people and all of creation.

Fr Norbert Pittorino ofm wrote:

> Paul VI's Rule set out a vision of Gospel Life and values to be lived out in our contemporary secular post-Vatican II world. It pointed out a life of conversion of heart to the love of God and neighbour to be lived out in the world by Secular Franciscans in full union with the Catholic Church and sharing its mission as part of the Franciscan family.
>
> There is a change in approach in the Pauline Rule: There is greater stress on the interior nature of the SFO. Earlier rules were more legalistic looking at external practices and organisations. Paul VI sought to express the interior spirit of the SFO rule which is one of conversion, turning to Go and, at the same time building up a relationships within the Franciscan Family.
>
> The text of the Pauline Rule refers to the Gospel and the writings of St Francis and Council documents and there are frequent references to God the Father, to Jesus Christ and to the Holy Spirit and well as to St Francis.

Short History of the Secular Franciscan Order at Kedron, Brisbane. The Holy Spirit Order.

Photograph: Earlier Church of the Little Flower, Kedron

KEDRON FRATERNITY: by Jenny Gibson

The Kedron Fraternity began in July 1929, shortly after the arrival of the Friars at Kedron in that year. So 1979, was the Golden Jubilee Year for the Fraternity. Celebrations to mark the occasion and these took place on 29th July 1979.

Fr. Fidelis Griffin was the first Spiritual Director. On his arrival in Brisbane, Fr. Fidelis found "some Tertiaries here before him. They had been keeping the Rule of the Third Order and had been praying for the Franciscans to come to Brisbane.

Mrs. S. Lacy was one of those good Tertiaries." (1)

She had been "received at Gordon, in England, many years ago, and she brought with her to Australia, a great love of St. Francis and his Order." Mrs. Lacy was a tower of strength to the Fraternity (2) and she did a lot of good work in Brisbane. She started a Burse, and also had a spiritual son working on the missions in New Guinea. (3) Mrs. Lacy celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Profession in the Third Order in 1959. (4) Two other foundation members, who still attend the Fraternity meetings regularly, will celebrate their Golden Jubilee of Profession on 29th July 1959."

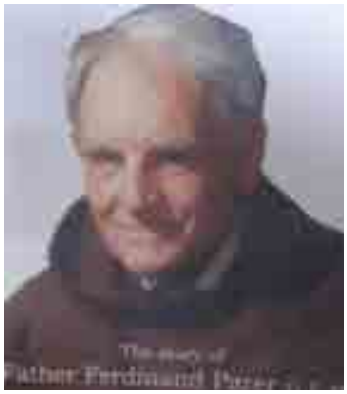
The Fraternity at Kedron is not a large one: something less than 100 members. About 30 of those come from outside the parish: chiefly from the neighbouring parish of Wooloowin. The members on the whole have a good spirit and help in every parish activity. Last year the Third Order stall headed the list at the local bazaar. They were also active during the winter months, making garments for the poor. A branch of the Franciscan Missionary Union has now been established at Kedron. At the last meeting the cards were distributed amongst the members." (5)

Photographs from the early history of the Third Order at Kedron.

A Third Order Meeting at Kedron 1942.

Meeting at Kedron 1954.

In March, 1946, a one day enclosed Retreat was held, and for many of those present this was probably their first such Retreat. It would seem that it was proposed to make this an annual event, as at the April 1946 meeting "the Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Paschal O'Brien O.F.M., drew attention to the need of checking the Register of members with a view to having it brought up to date. All changes of names and address and other details were required so that every Tertiary could be contacted before the next Spiritual Retreat."



During 1947 contact was initiated and maintained with the pioneer group of Missionary Friars, mainly through Fr. Ferdinand Parer, a native of Brisbane. The Tertiaries aided the Missionaries by their prayers as well as monetary donations. Following a letter from Fr. Ignatius Doggett, O.F.M., which was read in part at the April 1947 meeting, asking that daily newspapers be sent to Fr .Ferdinand, "it was decided to form groups for the collecting and posting of newspapers for New Guinea. Kedron, Wooloowin and West End Tertiaries are to organise these groups and see that a continuous flow of papers leave Brisbane each week." (7)

Fr Ferdinand used the newspapers as trade items in PNG where the paper was used to wrap tobacco to create cigarettes. Much sort after trade item exchanged for food. You could get many hours work done for one sheet of paper.

The following year, in response to "a letter received from New Guinea in which the urgent need was stressed for Queensland Readers (50 copies of Prep. 1), it was decided to send the books immediately to Fr. Ferdinand." These books were used to teach English in the schools. (8)

A special collection was held each month to raise money for the Mission. Vestments were also made, and later food parcels were sent to the Mission. Various means of support and assistance are still given to the mission, the primary one being prayer.

In 1950 the Fraternity undertook to sponsor "the broadcast 'The Hour of St. Francis ', broadcast through radio station 4KQ." In 1960 31 Australian stations were broadcasting the programme. About two years after the broadcasts initially began, they were reaching an estimated 10,000 homes each week." [7] This sponsorship continued for some years, but has now ceased, and the programme is no longer broadcast.

During 1957 a Third Order Library was formed, and proved very popular.

Photograph of St Therese and St Anthony, Kedron

From the Franciscan Newsletter: "The Kedron Fraternity had a fairly quiet year during 1974, but some things stand out. Early in the year there was a very enjoyable visit to the Capuchin Fraternity at Wynnum. We also had contact with the Anglican Franciscan Tertiaries whom we had visited the year before at Brookfield. The Wynnum and Anglican Tertiaries were invited to a day of Instruction held at the Portiuncula Centre in July. This was a most enjoyable day, thanks to Fr. Frank O'Brien's excellent talks. Many have requested more of these days during the year." Our annual weekend Retreat, conducted by Fr. Maurice Carmody, O.F.M., was held at the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary "Ave Maria" Retreat House, Coorparoo, and was enjoyed by all. Some of us help with the local Meals on Wheels, and it fell to us to prepare the Christmas Dinner for the people. It meant a busy day for the workers, but a rewarding one." (10).

"Every few months this Fraternity organises a Sunday of Instruction and Prayer at the parish multi-purpose building, the Portiuncula. For these occasions the two Kedron Fraternities combine with Wynnum Fraternity and with the Anglican Fraternity from Brookside. The Mass is followed by talks and discussions using films, filmstrips and cassettes. These days are a great success, though attempts to draw non-Tertiaries have met with slight success." 11

Photograph: Regional Day at a later date with Wynnum and Kedron members. With Fr Norbert ofm and Sister Clara.

(1). the Crusader, December, 1947.
(2). the Crusader, October, 1935.
(3). the Crusader, December, 1947.
(4). Franciscan Newsletter, September, 1959.
(5). the Crusader, October, 1935.
(6). The Crusader, July, 1946.
(7). The Crusader, July, 1946.
(8). The Crusader, June, 1948.
(9). Tertiary News, July and October, 1952, and Franciscan Newsletter, Feb, 1960.
(10). Franciscan Newsletter, March, 1975.
(11) Franciscan Newsletter, December 1975.

Ministers of the Kedron Fraternity since 1983

Rita Stone 1983, 1984, 1985,
Jenny Gibson 1986,1987, 1988
Joan Jowett 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995,
John Dunne 1996,1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
Hiliary Stinson, 2001, 2002, 2003
Elizabeth Arthy 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
Michael McGarry 2009, 2010, 2014.
Elizabeth Arthy 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Rita Stone 1983, 1984, 1985

Many years ago the Crypt Fraternity went into recession. It consisted of an English speaking group and an Italian speaking group. Some of the English speaking group joined us at Kedron, one of whom was Rita Stone who later became the minister of the Kedron Fraternity and then Regional Minister before her death. Some years elections were late. Prior to Rita Stone the Prefect/Minister was not named in the Register only the priest.

Top row: Joan Jowett (Kedron) & Fr Carmel Flora OFM Cap (Wynnum)
Second row: Hiliary Stinson, Jenny Gibson (both Kedron), Carl Rangiira and his wife Colleen Rangiira (both from Wynnum).
Front row: Rita Stone (Kedron). Probably taken at a National Council meeting at Point Piper in Sydney

Jenny Gibson was Minister for parts of 3 years - 1986 ,1987, 1988

Jenny was the author of the history of the Secular Franciscans in Australia. She was received into the Secular Franciscan Order at St Anna's Church at Aitape, PNG on the 1/3/76. Fr Frank O'Brien OFM witnessed her Profession on the 22/5/1977. At that time remember, the friars were the directors of the Third Order. After Jenny Gibson left Papua New Guinea she spent a year in Sydney researching the history of the Third Order from the Archives of the Franciscan Friars at Waverley. Jenny returned to Brisbane and became a member of the Kedron, Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Later she left the Fraternity and lived in Toowoomba.

Joan Jowett was Minister 1989 – 1995

When Joan first joined the Fraternity she was hardly noticed. Fr Frank O'Brien was the spiritual director and numbers were low. Some quite elderly people in their 80s and then the younger ones including herself. Hiliary Stinson and Mary and Nev Endicott Fr O'Brien looked around the group and hoped it would fold but Joan and the Endicotts kept it going.

Fr Bob Matthews ofm, Colleen Rangiira, Joan Jowett and Brian Dalton OFS

After a while Fr O'Brien became interested in the group. At this stage he was the Spiritual Director and was known as the third Order of St Francis. When the new chapter was held in Rome the name was changed to Secular Franciscan. Eileen Cole was amongst the first to make her profession under the new rule.

The priest always kept the books in his room at the friary but after this the priest was called assistant Our meetings then consisted of a Holy Hour in the church and then the group went over to the church.

Photograph: Nev and Mary Endicott ofs

There were no elections but the priests appointed people to certain roles. Fr Frank O'Brien appointed Hiliary. Fr Joachim asked Joan to keep all the newsletters and she did every month. She gave the lot to Monica Tardiani to look after and she stored them under her house. They were safe enough until the big flood came to Brisbane and destroyed 80 % of the historical documents.

Having my children at Franciscan schools and living most of my life in the Kedron Parish, I was very much impressed by the Franciscan Friars in particular Fr Alban Mitchell OFM I felt called to the Franciscan way of life. Fr Alban many years later became our Spiritual Assistant, Queensland Regional Spiritual Assistant and National Spiritual assistant.

Joan continues: When I first attended Kedron Fraternity which was known as the Third Order of St Francis, there were no information leaflets and when I asked questions of the Prefect (now known as the Minister), I was given the manual of the Third Order to read. The Prefect was Hiliary Stinson.

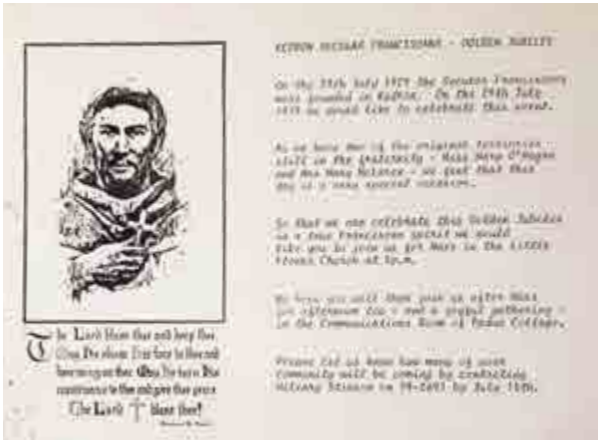
Photograph: Fr Odoric ofm Fr Alban OFM and Joan Jowett ofs.

Fr Frank O'Brien was the Spiritual director now known as Spiritual Assistant for the nine years he was Kedron Parish Priest. The meeting consisted of Holy Mass in the Church then a short meeting in the hall followed by afternoon tea. Fr Frank's talks at the Holy Hour were my only formation there was no other. Members were addressed as Brother and Sister and they were known as Postulants and Novices before Profession. The Members (apart from four people my age) were all elderly. I stood in awe of these older members as they were so dedicated and holy.

Joan Jowett wrote; I was received into the Order in 1973 and made my Profession on the 20th July 1975. The profession ceremony was very different in those days, made during the Holy Hour, reading from a piece of paper. Apart from two country friends of Fr Frank who never attended meetings and made their profession privately, I was the first profession for 10 years in the Kedron Fraternity.

Three years later we had a new rule (1978). Peter Keogh and Fr Joachim O'Brien OFM came up from Sydney to Kedron for a weekend gathering to explain the new Rule. The monthly meeting time changed to 11 am so we could spend the extra time studying and understanding the new Rule. Even today we are encouraged to know, live and love our Rule.

Kedron Fraternity supported the Franciscan mission in New Guinea and Palm Island where Fr Ferdinand Parer was the Parish Priest. We sent up school supplies to Fr Ferdinand and tinned food to New Guinea. I soon learnt the art of packing a parcel and wrapping it in calico. Eventually the postal charges became too high and more shops were opening in New Guinea so a mission fund was established sending up money instead. We added to this by running bring and buys and an occasional raffle.



On the 50th Anniversary of the Canonical Establishment of the Kedron Fraternity we had a big celebration. Mass was followed by afternoon tea. Our two longest serving members Mary O'Hagan and Mary McLaren who were celebrating 50 years since becoming novices, cut the cake.

Photograph taken at the Golden Jubilee of the Kedron Fraternity

Back Row: David Curtis, June Curtis, Rita Miles, Pauline Walden, Joan Jowett, Mary Endicott, Jenny Gibson, Joe Carvey, Mrs Verbakels

2nd Row: Ken Curtis, Hiliary Stinson, Eva Norris, Rita Stone, Ellen Ryan, Nev Endicott, Nell Carr, Aileen Carr, Joan Falvey, Mona McCarthy, Mr Verbakels

Front: Amy Gilbert, Alice Hickey, Mary O'Hagan, Fr Frank O'Brien, ofm Mary McLaren, Teresa Rose. 29. 7. 1979.

On our 60th Anniversary we celebrated with Mass at the now non-existent Portiuncula. Every seat was taken. During the Mass five members made their Profession. 32 years later there remains Mary Mennis (active) and Eunice Jackson (isolated).

Photograph: Paula Moore, Margaret O'Hara, Tess Quinn, Mary Mennis Eunice Jackson, at their profession. 16th July 1989.

Joan: In the recent past we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Profession of Mary Endicott and the 70th anniversary of Profession of Joan Falvey who at the age of 17 made her Profession to Archbishop James Duhig, Eunice Jackson and I visited her in the nursing home on the day taking flowers etc. Joan died a short time later and we were both a secular presence at her funeral making sure her wonderful service to the Fraternity in her younger days was mentioned.

Over the years, members of the Kedron Fraternity have gone to Sydney and Melbourne for National Secular Franciscan meetings and Elections and non-elective Chapters. The very first I attended was held at the OFM Friar's Novitiate in Campbelltown. We slept five in a room on stretchers. It was such an awakening - people from New Zealand and from every Region in Australia. Oh what absolute joy was that meeting in Campbelltown!

I experienced the real meaning of Fraternity. The icing on the cake was we had a Holy Hour in the chapel of the Poor Clares on the Saturday night, and afterwards the Poor Clares came out of their enclosure to have supper with us. Over time Kedron members have attended big gatherings in NSW one at Hunters Hill and one at Riverview. Both organised by Dick see (National Minister) an Assembly organised by Sandra Tilley (National Minister). Kedron Fraternity has always been well represented at National meetings both by delegates and observers.

And the same could be said of our attendance at Regional Days, the one that stands out most had so many representatives from Wynnum, Kedron, Padua, Petrie Terrace we could not fit into the Wynnum Friars Chapel, so we had Mass on the lawn under the trees.

I was posed the question what were some of the main points about the Fraternity you would like to stress". A Fraternity should be a place of welcome for young and old, strong and not so strong, in sickness and health. Praying, studying, discussions, lunchtime should be an atmosphere of love and respect. It should support its isolated members not only sending out the Monthly Message but with personal contact.

I am grateful to the Fraternity Secretary, Trish Sharkey, who does just that. Members of the Fraternity are obliged to pray for our deceased members. We stand on their shoulders. Our Fraternity is 92 years old at the end of July this year. Pray for each other, encourage one another, Joan Jowett 28/3/2021.

In 1993, there was a special Regional Day when Archbishop Bathersby celebrated Mass for all the Fraternities of the Secular Franciscans in Queensland. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bathersby.

Archbishop Benedict to Varpin made a visit to Brisbane in October 1996 on his way home from his *Ad Limina* visit to Rome. While there he visited the Third Order of Franciscans at Kedron whose members send regular donations to the PNG Church. Benedict had lunch with the friars at the Kedron Franciscan Friary and many of those he lunched with had been to the Aitape mission stations and were able to talk and joke in *Tok Pisin*.

Far left: Archbishop Benedict in Madang.

Left: Archbishop Benedict and Archbishop Bathersby in Brisbane.

John Dunne ofs Minister for six years: 1996 - 2001

Born in Melbourne in 1927 John was educated at St Kevin's Christian Brothers' College and later did an accounting course at the University of Melbourne. He first met his future wife Kathy in 1948 at a church dance. Kathy was studying nursing at St Vincent's' Hospital. They married in 1951. At first John worked in Melbourne and then had a managerial role in Weipa with Comalco and later moved to Brisbane.

Photograph: 17 May.1992. Michael Blanchfield, Norah Moore, John Dunne.

When he first came to Brisbane John read a book about Padre Pio and became interested in the Franciscans. He met Fr Ferdy Parer and asked him if there were any Third Order Fraternities in Brisbane. "Yes there is" was the answer "right here in Kedron.' So Fr Ferdy encouraged him to contact the Secular Franciscans. He met Joan Jowett and joined the fraternity at the Portiuncula Church.

John Dunne was received into the novitiate at the Portiuncula Kedron and admitted to the Holy Profession on 17th May 1992. He became minister in 1995 for six years. His main aim while minister was to keep the order holy.

There was an important meeting in 2nd December 1995 at which several key topics were raised. Present at the meeting was Minister John Dunne as well as Kevin Anderson, Michael Blanchfield, Mary Mennis, Monica Tardiani, Margaret O'Hara, Hiliary Stinson and Fr Bob.

1. The placement of the relic of St Francis. Margaret suggested that it be placed centrally to make it accessible to the other Fraternities. In the end it wad decided to keep it in a safe in the back of the Kedron Church. The relic belongs to the Queensland Fraternity.

2. John decided that talks be held in different churches about the Fraternity to give it more exposure. A stand with information on it was to be displayed at the Kedron church.

3. At the meeting the formation of a Gold Coast Fraternity was discussed. At that stage they had enough active members to form a Fraternity. If they approached the National Council they would be able to form a Fraternity.

Photo. Patrick Monisse, Margaret Sewell, Joan Murphy, Maria Brazenas, Val Malone, Vera Turrise of the Gold Coast Fraternity.

During this time John also visited the Gold Coast fraternity each month Sr Clara and Monica Tardiani also helped particularly with formation. John developed the social aspect of the Kedron Fraternity with picnics and outings to theme parks. He also invited speakers to meetings to speak on various topics related to St Francis. John thought that during his ministry the spirit was good and there was quite a large number attending quite often over 40 members. He prefers the first title of the order – The Brothers and Sisters of the Poor and likes the title Third Order rather than Secular Franciscans.

John still says the office morning and night but does not attend meetings because of his health and his age but he still feels very much a part of the Fraternity. John's wife Kathy joined the order two years after John and during her time enjoyed the conviviality at meetings. She also provided lunch at their home after Council meetings each month. Sadly Kathy died many years ago and there was a gathering of some Franciscans at her funeral.

Photo: Kathy Dunne on her Profession Day with husband, John Dunne and Camille Anderson at the back. Beside Kathy is their daughter Clare and husband Greg Mennis.

Photograph: welcoming postulants April 1997

Hiliary Stinson, ofs 2001, 2002, 2003

Hiliary was elected minister of the Kedron fraternity in 2001 with 13 votes on the first ballot. That same year Leslie Rodrigues was voted Vice Minister, Secretary was Hazel Rodrigues, Formator was Rosemary Josephson and treasurer was Carlos.

Francis Hefferan and Eileen Coles were councillors. Before she was elected Minister, she moved from Brisbane to Hervey Bay with her husband Merv who liked fishing. While in Hervey Bay, she joined a small Franciscan Fraternity, begun by Giles Pitts. When Merv passed away Hiliary moved back to Brisbane and lived at Aspley with her daughter. She was Minister 2001 – 2003. The following year she became increasingly ill and died in October 2004. Members of the fraternity gathered to remember her and her wonderful contribution.

Hiliary Stinson, Kathy Dunne, Margaret O'Hara. Monica Tardiani, John Dunne and Kevin Anderson.

Monica Tardiani was never a minister, but she was a dedicated Secular and held ofs Council roles at Holy Spirit Fraternity as Formator for many years. She was also the formator on the Gold Coast Sacred heart Fraternity for four years. She was also on the National Council for three years and was part of the team to publish the OFS Managerial Manual, alongside Sandra tilley, Fr Patrick Colebourne and Peter Keogh.

She later transferred to the Gold Coast Fraternity where she held council roles including Formator.

Monica was born in 1926 and during World War II she served as a nurse in the army. She died in 2019 and her funeral was in the Kedron Parish Church. St Therese and St Anthony.

Elizabeth Arthy was Minister 2004 – 2009 and then 2015 - 2021

In 2019 Elizabeth wrote an article about the Holy Spirit Fraternity

As we approach the end of 2019, it is a time to reflect and remember and discern once again and pray "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour". We reflect on what it is that the Lord is calling us to be individually as well as fraternally and we bring to mind Rule 9: The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The lessons of the Nativity scene are still fresh and new even though they are repeated every year.

We ponder Joseph's anguish as he is faced with the scandalous news of Mary's pregnancy, his own unwillingness to expose her to its shameful consequences, arriving at the difficult decision to quietly divorce her. As he slept, receiving new information in a dream and having arrived at a course of action, he remained open to the voice of God's message and changed the course of action he had decided on.

Let us be open to the Holy Spirit who is always there for us guiding us in our times of confusion and messy decision making, enabling us to discern and move forward in His love. During 2019 we celebrated Mass together. With the whole Secular Franciscan Order, we were asked to ponder and reflect on the meaning of sexuality and the sacrament of marriage through the lens of different encyclicals and Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Day of the Family on April 28th of each year was proposed by CIOFS (International). Its purpose is to highlight the importance of family life in our fraternities. We had a quiet day at Marian Valley in April in lieu of our fraternity meeting. It gave us an opportunity to spend time in prayer and quiet reflection and to deepen our vocation as Secular Franciscans. Kedron led the Transitus Ceremony held at St Therese and St Anthony Church this year again. The Ceremony was well attended. Both Kedron and Wynnum celebrated Corpus Christi by taking part in the annual procession. We attended the Vocations Expo to promote the Order. Members of the Qld Region met with Archbishop Coleridge regarding the OFS 800 Anniversary in 2021.

During this year Fraternity elections were held successfully with Fr Harry Chan acting as Spiritual Assistant, in the absence of Fr Fernanto. Some members visited those who are not able to attend fraternity and were well received. Our frail members are remembered in our prayers and even though they are not able to attend fraternity they are missed and thought about. Please keep Joshua Daamen and Damian Perrin in your prayers as they will be preparing for profession in April 2020, Michael Foster and Franco Bernardini are continuing their formation towards profession. We celebrated the lives of Michael McGarry ofs who entered eternal life on 11 July 2019, and Angela Adams who entered eternal life on 2 November 2019 - may they rest in peace. Please remember in your prayers all those affected by the drought and fires, it will be a sad time for all of them this year. Wishing you blessings at Christmas and a peaceful new year. In the peace and joy of Our Lord, **Elizabeth Arthy, Minister.**

Michael McGarry Minister - 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

My Franciscan Journey by Michael

I have been asked to provide you with a few comments on my journey to becoming a Secular Franciscan. Unfortunately, I was never blessed with a vision of Jesus or saints and no burning bushes or crosses that spoke to me. In fact, it took over 35 years for the message to sink in that I should become a Secular Franciscan.

The genesis of my 'vocation' began with my meeting Franciscan friars in the 1950's and attending Padua College in the early 1960's. It was only after I left school and working in the bush that the thought came to me that I should become a friar. In 1969, I joined the seminary and was immediately struck by the holiness of the friars and fellow students. It is fair to say that the devil worked on me to offer me plenty of reasons why I was not holy enough to become a friar, and to remind me that I had elderly parents to look out for. I didn't stay too long and for years after, I regretted that I had had not persisted. But my faith was not shaken and I kept in contact with a few friars in the following years.

Photograph: David Francis, Larry Cox, Michael McGarry at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane.

In time, I met my beautiful wife and we married, eventually God provided us with three beautiful daughters. As the years passed, my passion to become a nciscan was put into the back of my mind yet I still kept contact with Fr Harry Mitchell OFM who was my school principal and confident, but not with the friars or those I met in the seminary. Despite all that God had given me, I still felt like I had let Him down and that thought never left me.

It was not until around 2004 that I rented an office in the Grange and began to visit the Little Flower church during the day for some quiet prayer. In time, this prayer became more regular. It was during that quiet time, I began to feel that I really did want to become a Franciscan, if only that becoming a Secular Franciscan was the only option left for me. I met with Joan Jowett, Elizabeth Arthy and local Franciscans and entered formation, with a solemn determination that this time I would persist. I have been professed since 2006. Since that time, I have begun to appreciate the richness of a Franciscan vocation in appreciating the simple things in life, in recognising God in His full glory in creation; feeling the love of God in my life; the searching in every soul we meet for the living Christ and the joy that being with fellow Franciscans can bring.

Looking back, I thank God for always being with me. He gave me a few crosses, some quite heavy. I was no saint so I reckon I deserved them. If there is a niggle in the back of your mind saying that the Secular Franciscan life is one you should look at, then my experience is that it is God telling you He might just have a few crosses for you to bear but He promises the reward will be 'heavenly'.

Thank you Michael.

Photograph: Larry Cox ofs, Christine Cary ofs, and Michael McGarry ofs

God, Creation, Death and Heaven

by Michael McGarry ofs Regional Formator 2018

We have all thought about these at some time. We are told that God exists outside of space and time but lives in all creation; i.e. is everywhere and that God created the universe (the heaven and the earth). Scientists tell us that the universe was formed in the "Big Bang" some 13.7 billion light years ago. The farthest known galaxy from us is GN-Z11 which is 13.3 billion light years (One light year is approx. 9.5 trillion kilometres). God created a universe that is immensely large and has billions of galaxies and trillions of stars and planets. The following bible quotes raise the question of where we will live when we die.

1 Thessalonians 4:14: From where does God bring these people who "sleep in Jesus" (i.e., people who are dead)? Some would say He brings them from heaven. Is this what the Bible teaches? Jesus Christ said in John 3:13: "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven." "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep [are dead]. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-16).

This teaching of our being raised from the grave at Jesus Christ's return is reiterated in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Jesus Christ Himself also taught the principle of being raised up in John 6:39-40: "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Will we see God when we are raised on the last day?

The Bible makes it clear that as sinners we cannot see God's face. God is the one who is "of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong" (Habakkuk 1:13). He is the one "who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:16).

Our sin keeps us from being able to come before the holy presence of God. Yet there are several parts of the Bible that hold out seeing God, beholding him, as a great future promise. Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Revelation 22 promises "the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."

Michael McGarry ofs, Regional Formator 2018

Sadly, Michael passed away 11 July 2019

Elizabeth Arthy 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Kedron Fraternity has supported four groups over the years.

Gold Coast, Joan travelled down to the Gold Coast for 6½ years and once Eunice Jackson was professed she often joined Joan. Later John Dunne and Monica Tardiani travelled down to help that fraternity.

Rockhampton Hiliary Stinson and Jenny Gibson visited this group has had Fr Alban Mitchell OFM and Fr Finian Perkins OFM Joan also made several visits.

Hervey Bay was started by Giles Pitts, a former Kedron member. The last of the Group is Ross Hamilton an isolated member of Kedron. He attended retreats regularly.

Mackay Joan was approached by Sr Ottavia (Franciscan Sister of the Heart of Jesus) wanting to start a group to be led by a Professed Secular Franciscan living there. It didn't succeed, but a member of the group, Mary Doyle also came down to Fraternity and eventually made her profession and is an isolated member pf the Kedron Fraternity.

Photograph: Tony Kelly ofs and Trish Sharkey ofs cutting the cake to celebrate their profession.

Trish Periodically some wonderful Franciscan priests and nuns touched my life and were fine examples of living a Franciscan life. Some of them were my Spiritual Directors for a time which helped guide me through difficult times, especially during the years I spent as a lay missionary in the Tiwi Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Along the way I heard about the Third Order (now Secular Franciscan Order) and was interested to learn more and I started formation in 2010. I knew immediately on my return to Kedron that I would proceed through formation and ultimately to Profession in the Order. I value our monthly fraternity meetings connecting in prayer with brothers and sisters who have the same love of Francis and Clare and the commitment to living a Franciscan life - Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

I have been fortunate to visit Assisi four times and this has had a major impact on my life. I cannot express the feeling I had when physically walking in the footsteps of Francis and Clare. Whenever I feel the need to be at peace I close my eyes and enter that world in my mind and slowly imagine walking to and sitting in places such as San Damiano (my favourite), or in front of the tomb of St Francis.

Open Day of the Secular Franciscans, Kedron.

When: Sunday, 21st May, 2017

Where: Kedron Parish Hall

Time: 10:30 to 12.30

Programme: A movie about St Francis; talks by members on their Franciscan lifestyle; morning tea, sausage sizzle, kids activity table and lots more.

"Where there is hatred let me sow Love"

Secular Franciscans in the Twenty- First Century

For the Open Day held on 21st May 2017 SFO members wrote the following;

Jim: I loved the serenity of the Friars and quiet spirituality of the Friary. From this I developed an interest in St. Francis which over the years became a devotion. My wife gave me a pamphlet she picked-up at the little Flower Church, Kedron that had Joan Jowett's name and phone number. Shortly after I started formation and nearly 3 years later I was professed with Alby in November 2016.

Elizabeth: Together we help each other grow and develop into the people God the Father is fashioning for Himself. We reach out to others in whatever way is helpful and uplifting for them, all the while knowing we ourselves need help and lifting too and every day is a new opportunity to begin again the journey of love shown to Francis and Clare and to us too that strive to live the Franciscan way of life.

Trish and Graham: We began our formation with Sister Clara Condon mfic, who was a devoted mentor and became a dear friend. We were greatly impressed right from the start by the devotion, faith, example and friendship of the fraternity members. Together with the spiritual guidance of Sister Clara and Father Patrick, we never doubted that we had made the right decision and the "Way of St. Francis" became the example of our way of life.

Michael: I have been professed since 2006. Since that time, I have begun to appreciate the richness of a Franciscan vocation in appreciating the simple things in life, in recognising God in His full glory in creation; feeling the love of God in my life; the searching in every soul we meet for the living Christ and the joy that being with fellow Franciscans can bring.

Alby: For me being in O.F.S gives me the opportunity to explore the mysticism of St Francis. Franciscan Spirituality has always drawn me in. I think it is the wisdom of simplicity and humbleness which is characteristic of St Francis. He simply surrendered to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Christine: I am so much closer to being with God. I am learning to follow in the foot steps of Christ through Francis. I came to the Franciscans some nine years ago. I learnt many different ways to pray, to give to others as well as myself, and most important feeling to live the Gospel life in the way in which St. Francis and St. Clare did, through loving all God's creatures including our fellow human beings. At times this is not easy. I have made some wonderful friends and met people I would not have ordinarily met. I am truly blessed at being given the opportunity to show others the Franciscan way of life.

Adrian: I found the person of St Francis intriguing and inspirational – here was a man who gave up everything to follow Christ with an undivided heart. We in the Secular Franciscans try to do the same in the everyday circumstances of our lives. This is a constant challenge – to live simply and faithfully to the call of Christ – balancing family, work and prayer.

Dominica: Participating in the Divine Office, I feel that I am one small voice with many others contributing to an eternal "prayer machine" as in a hymn used at night prayer - "The Day thou gavest Lord is ended." The unique gift that St Francis gave, something for laity whose vocation is to be in the world was extremely forward thinking. It is a fulfillment of the baptismal promises - a way to live joyfully!

David: For me, it has been a fantastic blessing receiving the Rule, and studying it and discussing how to live the Franciscan way of life, at our monthly meetings and yearly Retreats and other gatherings over the years. I have also been greatly blessed by the fraternal fellowship and support of my fellow brothers, sisters, and Frs. Norbert. OFM and Fr. Finian, OFM, the Spiritual Assistants during my time in the Order. One of St. Francis" sayings has stuck with me: "Brothers, let us begin again, for as yet we have done nothing."

Mary: I have been in the Secular Franciscans for over 25 years and Eunice Jackson and I celebrated this anniversary together. I have always been attracted to St Francis's interpretation of the Gospels: 'From Gospel to life and life to the Gospels." We are part of our Kedron fraternity but we also feel part of a world-wide organisation with half a million members. We want to share our enthusiasm about St Francis with everyone. In the fraternity I have met some wonderful spiritual people who are an inspiration to me.

Trish: I have always related to St Francis' love of nature, and his need to get away to a cave to reflect and pray, also his desire for peace, justice and care for people on the fringes. I wanted to be professed in the Secular Franciscan Order for almost forty years but have only had the opportunity to follow that desire since returning to Australia some years ago. After spending time in and around Assisi a few times and actually walking where Francis and Clare walked, I had no doubt that I would eventually be Professed in the Secular Franciscan Order. I enjoy our fraternity meetings because I am with a group of brothers and sisters who pray together and share together; people I trust and who understand my desire to follow in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare.

Larry: Some 22 years ago, I experienced a desire to deepen my relationship with God, and felt attracted to the Franciscan Spirituality after reading and reflecting upon various Franciscan authors. My deep desire revolved around wanting to better see the face of Christ in those I meet, and to feel more in tune with nature and everything around me. Endeavouring to understand and instil within myself some of the deep values of Christ, values that will take a life time to achieve. Living based upon gospel scripture, following in the way of St Francis of Assisi, all enable me to continue on my journey. I fully understand it is a pathway that many in society will shun. Recent trips to Assisi and the Holy Land further deepen my desire, and it is this that keeps me in the Secular Franciscan.

Leslie and Hazel: We had the Conventual Franciscans in St Joseph's Church Springvale, Sydney. Many of them were American. Under their influence and way of life we decided to become Secular Franciscans and we were accepted as part of their family and wherever we were in Sydney or in Kerrala, India, we enjoyed living with them and witnessing first hand their way of life by living the gospel as St Francis did.

Photograph: Hazel and Leslie Rodriguez. ofs

Entering the New Year. (2019)

Larry Cox, ofs Queensland Regional Minister (The 2018 Bonaventurian of the Queensland Regional Secular Franciscans).

Secular Franciscans by Larry Cox ofs Regional minister and member of the Kedron Fraternity:

Every life makes a difference in the universe, whether or not you embrace your God-given power. God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power. May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well. Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honour rather than destroy. Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made. May the grace and peace of Christ bless you now and in the days ahead.

Finding my Christ Centre

As Ilia Delio, osf, indicates 'Finding My Christ Centre' is an important part of my life. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was aware of the mysterious union that exists among the cosmic, the human and the divine. We are called to find this union in the ordinariness of our lives if we allow ourselves the freedom first to find the Christ Centre within us, then to follow Christ by trusting in God's unconditional love. We can do it if we enter within ourselves and honestly accept God's love for us; if we can say "this is what I am and it is good" and know in that goodness Christ lives.

We can do it if we relinquish our idols, our need to control, our frenzied impersonal activity and allow ourselves to enter the still point of our lives wherein lies the seed of eternity. We need the freedom to be ourselves as God created us and loves us, andwe need the courage to live in God's love humbly, attentively and with compassion. If we can do this, then we are free to open our eyes to the wonder of Christ in the marvellous diversity of creation, we are free to celebrate the world in its global richness.

When we discover the power of Christ within us we will discover the power to heal the world, and this healing power will be the hope of our future in God. May peace be with you, and may the graces of God continue in your life during 2018. May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and

war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen. Pax et bonum.

Larry Cox, ofs Queensland Regional Minister

Promotions Day at the Cathedral Trish, Mary and Larry with Franciscan material

Tony Kelly ofs, Alby Vico ofs, Fr Finian ofm, Jim Kearney ofs.

Fr Finian Perkins.

The Queensland Secular Franciscans wanted to thank Fr Finian for his twelve years of dedication to the Kedron Fraternity. A Special Mass was celebrated to honour and thank him for this, and also as the Qld OFM Regional Spiritual Assistant. Fr Finian's time, and dedication, in the role has been very much appreciated, and his Spiritual guidance has benefited all within our Secular Franciscan Order.

The Mass was celebrated at the Friary, due to the current restrictions on numbers, and due to social distances required between people. Larry represented the Qld Regional St Bonaventure Fraternity, and David represented the Holy Spirit Fraternity of Kedron. David Francis organised a card, and all Holy Spirit Fraternity Secular names, plus Qld Regional Council names were notated on the card. A cheque to the Friars, to celebrate the Mass - with $50 coming from the Holy Spirit Fraternity, and $50.00 from the Qld Regional St Bonaventure Fraternity. Fr Finian was very appreciative and gave a short speech after Mass.

Left to right
David Francis ofs,
Fr Finian ofm,
Fr Joe McKay ofm,
Larry Cox ofs

My heart is filled with love,
As I look at the heavens up above.
The Sun is shining, the birds are flying,
my heart rejoices as the birds sing.
What a beautiful thing, the sky is a beautiful blue,
Each and every moment is a gift from you.
Colour is giving glory to you
Admiring the pink sunset, enjoying this time well spent,
step by step the eagle spreads its wings then soars.
Love always endures.
Josh Daaman OFS

Group of Secular Franciscans at Kedron David Francis, Damian Perrin, Elizabeth Arthy and Josh Daamen. Photographs by Dominica.

Alby Vico, Jim Kearney, Tony Kelly all members of the Kedron Fraternity.

A celebration of the Holy Spirit Fraternity, Kedron.

Fr Norbert Pittorino, ofm Mary Mennis, Ann Hoy Trish and Graham Hardy all ofs members with connections with PNG.

Until 2019 members of the Wynnum and Kedron Fraternities took part each year in the Corpus Christi Procession through the streets of Brisbane. This was cancelled in 2019 and 2020 because of Covid 19. Michael and Jim with the banner made by Lucy Cox.

Holy Spirit Fraternity Profession

The Kedron Fraternity were delighted to celebrate the profession of Damian Perrin into the Secular Franciscan Order on the 19th July 2020 at St Anthony and St Therese's Parish Church, Kedron. Fr Joe McKay celebrated mass and officiated at the profession ceremony. Damian's family and several friends were present to support Damian in his final journey to becoming a professed Franciscan. Fr Finian who was the Fraternity's spiritual assistant for most of Damian's formation was a special guest, as were Joan Hanley and Carmel Haley from the Guardian Angels Fraternity Wynnum. The afternoon concluded with a quiet Covid style afternoon tea celebration in the meeting hall with the fraternity and Damian's guests. Jim Kearney of the Kedron Fraternity.

Larry Cox: July 2020 on the covid epidemic

Brothers and Sisters in Christ We are not left to battle on alone Brothers and Sisters in Christ. During the past months we have and are experiencing challenging times and for many Seculars and their families, have had feelings of isolation, loneliness and even abandonment. All our routines have changed. We have lost our sense of the familiar and the secure. We have been separated from those we love, not able to participate in the physical Sunday Mass, and get together in our fraternities. We have found alternative ways to connect with family and loved ones, and view parish liturgies, spiritual communion, and various other prayer sessions and retreats. Zoom has come alive for many, and for others maybe Skype, FaceTime or WhatsApp. Even with empty shelves in supermarkets, participation in lining up, with the appropriate distancing, and being aware some things in our recent past will no longer be the same. I am sure the disciples, too, felt concerned and disturbed when Jesus started talking about a time when he would no longer be with them - a time when life as they knew it would come to an end.

In St John's Gospel, Jesus gives a long farewell speech during the meal he shared with them before his death. Yes, Jesus was going away, but he would not abandon his loved ones, he will come back. In the meantime, he will not leave them to battle on alone or to figure it all out by themselves. He would send them a helper, an Advocate, as a pledge of his love for them. The Holy Spirit would help them to continue to be love – in love with God, with Jesus, with the world and its peoples. Through this Spirit, the disciples would not only remain in Jesus' heart and feel him near, they will be able to be God's love in the world and helping our families and neighbours who are in need. These are unprecedented times, hopefully coming to an end, with newly found ways for each of us to keep safe in the future and to be that loving service to others. My prayers are extended to all our Seculars and their families and I pray for all to be safe and well. Take care, and peace be with you all Larry Cox, ofs Regional Minister - St Bonaventure Fraternity.

Current Regional Ministers of the ofs. From left Tony Bartemucci (SA) Anne-Marie Langdon (WA) Larry Cox (QLD) , Tony Bozicevic (NSW & ACT), Lola Kelly (National Minister) and Moya Roadley (Vic)

Holy Spirit Fraternity Minister's Report for 2020

Elizabeth Arthy ofs.

Looking back at the last six months of 2020, we experienced "lock down" in the various States making it difficult to move around Australia. Even with "permits" difficulties still dogged us. Grandparents were not able to visit their children and grandchildren, even in emergency situations permits were not granted. Here in Qld, travel within the State was allowed, however, the borders with the rest of Australia were not fully yet completely open.

As we grappled with how to live with Covid as part of everyday life, we rejoiced that we can go to Mass and receive Communion, that we can gather with agreed protocol, learning to BYO food instead of sharing the open plates of food we used to bring. It is great that we can praise God with song again and take Communion to those in nursing home and those shut ins, visit our friends, meet for coffee. We now use sanitizers and keep safe distancing automatically. We continue to put in place safe strategies to be in touch and reach out. God constantly reminds us in scripture, liturgy, and through our friends to persevere in finding ways to show His love for other through us.

The Laudato Si encyclical occupied much of our thoughts and reflections: many thanks to Fr Tony Fox OFM Conv 's 4-part series. It helped us reflect more deeply on what is happening to our planet and the fact that the earth and the poor are related that global inequality is real. Cultivating simplicity by remembering with thanks that the food we are about to eat is a gift that comes from the earth and from God. We were reminded about the distinction between "Nature" and "Creation" how easily we can presume to take God's place and forget we too are creatures. We want to "sort the problem" without consultation, forgetting we are creatures too. Our job is to observe and understand nature, the outcome being responsible stewardship. Creation is God's gift requiring respect for its original good purpose.

Pope Francis, reminds us of our dependence on God for life, for the gifts of creation and for those who through their labours provide us with the necessities of life. The practice of giving thanks to God helps us remember. He also reminds us many times that sin does matter. The wounds inflicted by sin brings us down and makes us unable to do what God requires of us. We need forgiveness and God's healing grace and mercy and in turn we are enabled to practice that mercy which we have received and offer it for all to experience it, for then it becomes a place of beginning again for us all. It will open us to do good and right, to appreciate the different elements in nature and their place in our lives and move from exploitation to life giving behaviour.

Kedron Fraternity led the Transitus Ceremony again at St Therese and St Anthony Church in 2020. It was well attended considering the Covid restriction, and with the use of technology Fr Joe was able to stream the ceremony to other places that suffered with lock down so that our brothers and sisters too could take part. We celebrated the profession of Damian Perrin and Joshua Daamen with much joy and thankfulness, after it was held back due to Covid restrictions. Adrian Eldridge completed studies towards becoming a married Deacon. Fr Joe McKay ofm is now our Spiritual Assistant and we

thank Fr Finian for his dedication and faithfulness to us for the past 12 years, may God reward him. Michael Foster and Franco Bernardini are continuing their formation towards profession. Our members who are not able to attend fraternity are remembered in our prayers and are missed and thought about.

As for myself, the hip fracture I suffered in late February got better and I am able to get around without crutches. At the end of this year, I experienced what it is to lose clear sight in an eye through retinal vein occlusion (popped vein in eye) and the uncomfortable remedy of having injections into the eye albeit with good anaesthetics so no pain is felt. Those who suffer with macular degeneration face the same issues. Thanks be to God things are improving. The regimen of injections is working. St Francis had to deal with eye issues too, I am grateful that the "hot iron" remedy is no longer in use. Wishing you blessings at Christmas and a peaceful New Year (2021). In the peace and joy of Our Lord,

Elizabeth Arthy ofs Minister, Holy Spirit Fraternity, Kedron

Secular Franciscan Newsletter Holy Spirit Fraternity Kedron February 2021 by Minister, Elizabeth Arthy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter into the season of Lent, we open ourselves through prayer, fasting, giving, and transformation to become more like Jesus. We begin the serious effort of following Jesus more closely. We pay attention to the connection between body and soul, what we do and what we ought to do. We pray and re-set the compass so to speak and sail once again into the deep knowing Jesus, the navigator, is with us through calm and storm. Plan a little ahead – fasting and abstinence, what are some of the ways I will do this, it's not just a matter of fish on Friday but the opportunity to really go without something that you alone know and the result gifted to those in need.

100 yrs of Secular Franciscan Presence in Australia. Makes for great reading, thanks to Fr Joseph's research we can read from the Catholic Press, 1 September 1921 – St Francis established a Third Order, for the people living in the world and pursuing their ordinary vocations in life, and he drew up a very simple rule of life for them, which any good, earnest Catholic might observe, from the Freeman's Journal, 25 August, 1921 – Seventh Century of the Third Order, by Fr Cobb, and from The Freeman's Journal, 15 Sept 1921 - The Blessings of the Third Order.

In February Mass was celebrated at 11.30am at the Kedron Parish for Seculars on February Fraternity Sunday. The Regional Non-Elective Chapter will be held on 30th May 2021 and a Regional Reflection Day for 2021 will be held on 7th August at The Fort at Oxley. An Environment & Social Justice Group 2021 has started to meet in Kedron, if you are interested in joining contact Fr Joe or Wayne and Liz Anderson through parish office. Pope Francis has announced on January 31 the establishment of a World Day of Grand-parents and the Elderly to be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents, as a reminder of the important role they play as a link between generations. The first celebration of this day will be July 25 2021. Peace and Joy, *Elizabeth Arthy ofs*

Elizabeth Arthy's Story

I immigrated to Australia in 1960 from Viet Nam with my parents and 7 siblings. The family settled in Brisbane and life settled down after the upheaval of moving to a new way of living in a new country. Arch my husband, who was a soldier and I married in 1968. Love of the church and being involved in the life of the church as a catechist led me to search for a way to come closer to Our Lord. In time, a notice about the Secular Franciscans in the Leader started my quest that began in Canungra Qld, continued in Melbourne where I made my profession in 1983, we then moved to Perth and eventually back to Qld all the while being in the company of Secular Franciscans and learning about St Francis and St Clare and their response to follow Jesus in this most radical way and being drawn to that radical way too.

Being an "army wife" entailed lots of moves every two years or so, and becoming involved in fraternity life and church life was a way to feel that sense of belonging despite the difficulties of being uprooted regularly and having to re-establish net-works, friendships et.

Living life among my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters always lifts me up and gives me encouragement. It brings me great joy and purpose to my life, whether serving in fraternity as minister or my church community as a sacristan, reader, extraordinary communion minister and in whatever way service is needed, or in my own blood family. God be praised for his great kindness to me.

Secular Franciscans described by Elizabeth

Secular Franciscans are men and women, married and single, living in secular life. We have jobs, homes, cars, hobbies and families. Francis founded our third order with the intention of having men and women who can evangelize in everyday life.

Our secular place in life puts us in unique positions to lead by example, offer spiritual counsel, and serve the people of God. We do not take vows as part of our profession to the Order. Instead promise to live the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, a way of life, preaching the Gospel by example in our daily lives.

Ofs do not make vows but commit themselves by their profession to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis, in their secular state, following the Rule approved by the Chuirch. GC Art 8.1. In GC Art 36 there are some OFS members with private vows but these individuals gather in groups according to the statutes. Profession is a perpetual commitment GC 42.

While we don't wear robes or veils, we do wear a habit. The habit of the Secular Franciscan Order is the tau cross. We wear this cross as a pendant, ring, pin or even embroidery on a shirt or jacket. It's an outward sign of our profession to the Order and commitment to live its rule and serve God's people. The tau is also an inward reminder of our commitment to God and His people, and our promise to live the rule of the Order.

The Kedron Fraternity of The Holy Spirit were blessed with two professions during the second half of 2020. Damian Perrin was professed on the 19th September and Josh Daaman on the 15th November. Members of both Damian and Josh's family were present along with a full compliment of Fraternity members from the Kedron Fraternity and visitors from the Guardian Angels Fraternity (Wynnum).

Both Damian and Josh's formation was interrupted by illness; never the less, they persisted and worked extremely hard in a quiet and faithful manner which impressed their fellow Seculars. Both Damian and Josh will be great additions to the Kedron Fraternity.

Fraternity, family and friends celebrating with Damian (top above) and Josh (above). ***Photographs Jim Kearney ofs***

Wynnum Guardian Angels' Fraternity

Greetings to all my Brothers and Sisters

Last year at Wynnum Fraternity I was battling cancer and the Fraternity was still low in numbers and we were doing it tough as a Fraternity. I asked the Fraternity to pray for an increase in our membership and wow did the Lord answer our prayers! Yes, he did. We now have 18 members, plus a few prospects in the pipeline. I know we are living the Corona virus, but life is good. St. Francis and all the Saints went through hard times and it will end with great rewards. ***Carmel Haley ofs*** *Minister - Guardian Angels Fraternity (From the Bonaventurian)*

Sun, 22 Oct 2017 - Guardian Angels Fraternity Elections, Wynnum. With Father John and Larry Cox ofs.

The big news from Wynnum is that we will be having four candidates professed in February 2020. This is really exciting and we welcome these new members with joy. A significant number of members were able to attend the Regional Retreat at Marian Valley in November and the general feeling was that it was a very valuable experience and that it was a good thing to be able to share with Holy Spirit Fraternity as well.

On the Feast day of our Patroness St Elizabeth, we were pleased to hold our fraternity meeting and to celebrate the joy of Christmas together. There was much sharing about traditions and celebrations in other cultures. It was a very positive way of getting to know more about each other. We now have a library established and materials will be available for members to borrow from the January meeting in 2020. Many people have been contributing books, DVDs and other materials to our collection for which we are very grateful. Hopefully this will give people access to resources that they may not otherwise be able to use. Peace and all good.
Carmel Haley ofs
Minister

Guardian Angels Profession February 23, 2020 was a day of great joy for the Guardian Angels' Fraternity at Wynnum. On that day four candidates made their Profession to the Gospel Life in the Secular Franciscan Order. The candidates included Fr Nathan McKay (a diocesan priest from Cairns), Elizabeth Walhain, Mihovil and Andjelka Jozeljic. Their profession took place during the Mass with Fr Fernanto Pananghat OFM Cap and Fr John Cooper OFM Cap concelebrating. The occasion was a bilingual event with Mihovil and Andjelka making their profession in Croatian. The second reading was spoken in Croatian and a Croatian hymn was included. Many thanks to the assistance of Daniel Jonjic who helped with the readings and the music. Carmel Haley ofs as Minister received the professions of these candidates and they were supported on their journey by Sophia Denis ofs as the Formator. After the liturgy afternoon tea was celebrated with much fraternal joy on the verandah of Guardian Angels' Church. These candidates are now welcomed as full members of the fraternity.
Pax et Bonum. ***Carmel Haley ofs***

Guardian Angels' Fraternity Minister's Report

The restrictions imposed on us all by Covid 19 have not stopped Guardian Angels' Fraternity from proceeding with many ventures. In September we welcomed Larry Cox OFS and Fr Joe McKay OFM on the occasion of Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation from Regional Council. Much work was done to prepare for this event.

We have been pleased to welcome three new inquirers to our midst in Rachel Pickering, Maria Wells and Ankica Bozic on October 25 and November 22. Our numbers have also been boosted by the transfer of Veronica Yong from South Korea and the inclusion in our fraternity of Biddy Dwyer who was formerly in Bundaberg but now living in Brisbane.

Our spirits have been boosted too by the fact that Maria Bortic is now well enough to be out of hospital and is being cared for by her daughter. We were delighted to see Maria come to the meeting in November. We have missed her presence.

Transport is always a difficulty for our members given age and distance but we are delighted that so many make the effort to come to meetings. Work continues with our emerging fraternity in Cairns and the group there is working very well on their formation under the guidance of Fr Nathan McKay who was professed in February. It is a very enthusiastic group. A visit has also been made to a group of members who live in Bundaberg with the hope of including them as formally isolated members of the order. This is a work in progress but so far has been most encouraging. Wynnum fraternity was delighted to host a Regional Reflection Day on November 8 and we much enjoyed the input provided by Fr Joe McKay. Much thought to be given to how we pray and specific Franciscan ways of doing so. **Carmel Haley ofs Minister, Guardian Angels Fraternity.**

Photo: left to right - Biddy Dwyey, Larry Cox, Sophia Denis, Carmel Haley, Joan Hanley, Carmel Haley & Fr Joe McKay ofm

Cairns Transitis Report

On Saturday October 3, a small group gathered in St Monica's Cathedral in Cairns to celebrate the Transitus of St Francis of Assisi. This is a special ceremony for Franciscans in that it remembers and re-enacts the events of Francis' passing on October 3 1226. It is celebrated annually throughout the world.

The emerging fraternity in Cairns were delighted to be able to celebrate this event along with visitors from Guardian Angels' Fraternity Wynnum. It was a joy filled occasion and one we hope to be able to repeat in the future. Many thanks to Fr Joshy OFM Cap from South Brisbane for the loan of the habit for the day.

The emerging fraternity in Cairns is hoping to have a Welcome Ritual at its meeting in November this year and from there begin the process of formally engaging in formation to become professed members of the Secular Franciscan Order in the future.

Photo: from left: Nathanael Honnef, Fr Nathan McKay OFS, Marina Schaefer, Sherry Jones, Tia Wells, Denis Provera, Jenny Hapea OFS, Joan Hanley OFS

Joan Hanley ofs (Bonaventurian)

Photograph of some members of the Fraternity, 20 November 2016.

Dominica Tsang, Mary Mennis, Jim Kearney, Leslie Rodrigues, David Francis, Hazel Rodrigues, Joan Jowett, Alby Vico, Mrs Daamen, Trish Sharkey, Tony Kelly.

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS
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