



Family

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER
EDITION FOR OCTOBER 2018

Groups

Bishop Vincent Long and his talk at Mulgoa

One Saturday in June, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, addressed about eighty people at Mulgoa. Bishop Vincent had responded to an invitation from Dennis and Elizabeth Farrar, the PFGM Diocesan Coordinators of Parramatta Diocese and the NSW Family Groups shared the organisation for the day. The title of his talk was “Towards a Post Clericalist Church”.

Over the course of his talk Bishop Vincent spoke of the current crisis in the Church with the handing down of the Royal Commission’s report into Institutional Sexual Abuse. He called upon the leadership of the Church at all levels to not only admit the need for change but to discern with the faithful as to what the process and the agenda for change should look like going forward.

Despite this, Bishop Vincent is not without hope. For he believes that the church must seize the Royal Commission’s report as a catalyst for change. He went on to say that we must have the courage to bring about a church that is worthy of Christ and his gospel and gave some pointers towards achieving this.

Bishop Vincent stated that we must make structural and systemic reforms to enable the church to move forward. He noted that the exercise of power should be intended for service and gave the example that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper.

It was suggested that we reclaim the priesthood of the baptised, thus making the church more the church of all the baptised. He suggested that the old clericalist model of church was inadequate and recalled that a variety of ministries existed in the early church but over the centuries, these became concentrated in the ordained at the expense of the baptised.

He went on to say that there is need for more listening and a listening church and noted that the Pope talks of a church that is compassionate, open, listening: a synodal church. In quoting Cardinal Martini SJ, Bishop Long said that we must learn to “quarrel peacefully” in a spirit of open and honest dialogue.

The church needs to be open to partnership. Bishop Vincent gave the Gospel example when Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs and spoke of the different gifts that are brought, especially those of women and those of other cultures when we work together.

In concluding, Bishop Vincent said that we have a duty to transform the culture of the Church. He noted that the “anointed of God” as called by the Pope in a letter to the Chilean bishops were exhorted to engage with the people.

We must rise to Christlike way of humility, inclusivity, compassion and powerlessness.

Watch this Space!

For our end of year newsletter we would love to have stories and pictures from the Passionist Family Groups throughout Australia.

Please send to Gwen at gwen.winterscheidt@gmail.com

**Check out the new
web site:**
www.family.org

For:
Local Articles
Reports
Parishes celebrating 25, 30
and 35 years of Family
Groups

Barbara Lunnon

One in a Million

Barbara Lunnon, Peter McGrath's secretary retired earlier this year after 40 years of dedicated service to the Passionist Family Group Movement. To give thanks for her amazing effort Fr Tom wrote an article titled Barbara Lunnon – One in a Million. We have taken extracts from this article to share with you.

As Grace Cottage closes this weekend, Barbara, our faithful companion and dear friend, concludes this special time of over 40 years' commitment to our Passionist Mission and Charism.

In the early 1970's Barbara and husband Bob went looking for a parish that provided meaning and mission, they heard of St. Anthony's in the Fields, Terrey Hills. Fr Peter McGrath said 'Hello'. Then immediately put them in the Ingham Family Group, the very first Family Group in the parish. From there they moved out to nurture a new Family Group and they were off!!!

As Peter's secretary, and as the PFGM went national and international, Barbara has been a powerhouse of organisation, administration, communication, and formation. She has organised conferences, formation programs, information nights, days and weekends, the Meroo Assemblies, concerts, fundraising functions, social get togethers.

She and others have met with Bishops, Parish Priests, Pastoral Councils, and she has spoken and preached at weekend masses in numerous dioceses.

And miraculously she managed Fr Peter. Well, most of the time!!

For the past 16 years, Barbara has been coordinating the office at Grace Cottage and its PFGM work. She has also organised the many local functions, education and meditation nights there.



And over the last two years Barbara has cared for, and organised care for, Fr Peter as his health and strength deteriorated. Barbara, of course, has no intention of settling down. The marvelous Grace Cottage Community will now move its monthly gatherings back to St Anthony's and they will continue to make a welcoming Passionist community, to make a family for all, there where so much of it began.

On behalf of the Passionist Congregation I want to honour and thank Barbara for such an extraordinary life of loving care and selfless service. To thank her for her loyalty to the Passionists and all our Passionist family. In honouring Barbara, she will say, as every one of the pioneering generation, "It wasn't 'me', we did it together."

And of course, that is true, there are so many others. However, Barbara was an anchor keeping the Movement steady, and the rudder keeping it on course. As we say at Eucharist: It is right and fitting that we give thanks for Barbara's service to the Passionist Family Group Movement

*In Christ Crucified
Tom cp
Provincial Superior*

Retirement of Chris and Tom Wilson

Chris and Tom have announced their retirement as Directors for South Australia effective 30 June 2018.

Chris and Tom generously came into the Directing role for the Passionist Family Group Movement in South Australia some fifteen years ago. We say generously as there was a need at that time when the previous Directors, Kathy & Denis Hennessy stepped aside. This they accepted with enthusiasm and experience for they had been assisting Kathy & Denis at that time.

Over their period of leadership, they steered the Movement in South Australia through its growth, helping to establish Family Groups when invited into parishes, then assisted the parishes as they amalgamated and guided parishes as they re-energised the membership. Throughout this time, they were supporting all the parishes in their care.

At heart was the Passionist Spirit and their wish to share the good news of the Passionist Family Group Movement. This took them to various parishes in the Adelaide and Port Pirie Dioceses and to assist in the renewals, Chris developed a handbook to promote the Movement.

Over these years Chris and Tom have been regular attendees at the annual Directors' Meeting, always participating in the many discussions that have taken place. Their presence will be missed from this forum.

At the National Planning Meeting, Mary Morris thanked them on behalf of the Movement for their participation, their leadership and their ever giving of themselves. She presented Chris and Tom with a plaque etched with the PFGM logo as a memento of their service. We wish them continued good times in their Passionist Family Group where they have been members for some 28 years and we know that they will continue their life in the wider Passionist Family where Chris tutors the novices in English as a Second Language and Tom teaches them singing.