



MARY'S ROSE

NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians
Marian Valley, PO Box 104, Canungra, Qld 4275
Telephone/Fax: (07) 5533 3617

Rector: Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

Volume 1 • Number 34 • April 2010

News from 'Marian Valley'

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Earlier this year I was blessed to attend the Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy conference for the Year of the Priest in Rome. It was a marvelous opportunity to meet with other English speaking clergy, to hear great talks and to celebrate the Sacred Liturgy with the Pope and in some of the most beautiful and historical churches in Christendom.

As I was going all that way to Rome for a week's conference I decided to stay for a month and make it a pilgrimage to strengthen and renew my priesthood. I stayed in the Vatican and each day was able to go to 'my chapel' (St Peter's Basilica) to offer Mass and to pray. I visited many of the Churches in Rome especially those traditionally visited by pilgrims – it was so inspirational.

One of the doctrines of our Faith is the Communion of Saints. That belief that all the Baptised, those on earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven are united in Christ, are brothers and sisters in Christ. I found that the living history of the Church found in Italy brought this to life.

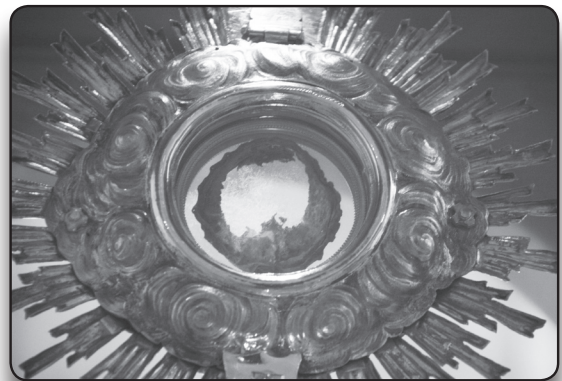
I gained a great appreciation of how I was a part of the Mystical Body of Christ with a real relationship with other Catholics when I got to offer Mass on the tombs of the saints (like St Peter's tomb!!)



Bl. Anne Marie Taigi Born in Siena on May 29, 1769,
housewife and mother of seven, died 1837.

and to offer Masses on the same altars that the saints used, to visit the rooms where they lived (Sts Padre Pio and John Bosco) and to pray at places where millions had prayed the same prayers before you.

A highlight for me was to be able to spend three hours in prayer before Our Lord's Eucharistic miracle at Lanciano. A Priest, more than a thousand years ago, had some doubt regarding the changing of the bread and wine at Mass into the Body and Blood of Christ. During Mass, at the Consecration, the appearance of bread and wine changed as well as the substance – so our Lord's Body and Blood was perceivable to our human senses. What a Miracle! And it is still there for everyone to see and it has been confirmed through barrages of scientific tests.



Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano

In all I can honestly say that this experience in Rome has given me a greater appreciation of the gift of my Priesthood and a renewed zeal for my Faith and bring others to share that Faith.

Fr Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

The Blessed Virgin, by becoming the Mother of God, received a kind of infinite dignity because god is infinite; this dignity therefore is such a reality that a better is not possible, just as nothing can be better than God. (St Thomas Aquinas)

How Catholicism Laid the Foundation Of Modern Health Care:

What happens when society loses its Catholic focus...and why we must fight to preserve our precious heritage.

By Fr Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has been striving over the past few years to get the western world at large to acknowledge the essential role that Christianity and in particular the Catholic Church has had in shaping western civilization into what it is today.

I would like today to look at the Church's role in the development of health care in the West. Let me first take you back in time to ancient Rome (just before the birth of Christ) to the crucible of western civilization.

The major philosophy at the time in Rome was stoicism (the old stoic with his stiff upper lip accepting whatever comes – the good and bad). How would you have got on if you were seriously ill or handicapped at that time?

Rodney Stark, American sociologist of Religions describes classical stoic philosophy as having **regarded mercy and pity as pathological emotions – defects of character to be avoided by all rational men. Since mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it was contrary to justice.** (Vincent Carroll & David Shiflett, *Christianity on trial: San Francisco. Encounter Books, 2002, 142*)

Let us hear what Seneca, the most famous stoic philosopher who lived from 4BC to 65AD, had to say, **“The sage will console those who weep, but without weeping with them..., will save the captive from the arena, and even bury the criminal; but in all his mind and countenance will be alike untroubled. He will feel not pity.His countenance and his soul will betray no emotion as he looks upon the withered legs, the tattered rags, the bent and emaciated frame of the beggar. But he will help those that are worthy It is only diseased eyes that grow moist in beholding tears in other eyes.”** (William Edward Hartpole Lecky, *History of European Morals From Augustine to Charlemagne, vol I. New York. Appleton & co, 1870. 199-200*)

There were a few hospitals but they were only for wounded soldiers.

If you were rich and became seriously ill, then you might have been able to see a doctor. If you were poor, you were isolated and left to fend for yourself. If you were possibly contagious then it is doubtful that even a doctor would see you.

In the early years of the Christian Era, the Church, though persecuted, was growing in the Roman Empire and it had a revolutionary philosophy of charity. Christian charity was based on Our Lord's words in sacred Scripture: **A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another, as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.** (John 13:34-35 cf and James 4:11)

St Paul explains that those who do not belong to the community of the faithful should also be accorded the care and duty of Christians, even if they should be enemies of the faithful - cf Rom 1:14-20; Gal 6:10. Here was a new teaching for the ancient world.

The Pagan writer Lucian, 130-200 wrote: **The earnestness with which the people of this religion help one another in their needs is incredible. They spare themselves nothing for this end. Their first lawgiver put it into their heads that they were all brethren.** (Carroll & Shiflett 143). Christian charity influenced later stoicism to be more caring for people and this can be seen in the benevolent attitude of the emperor Marcus Aurelius to the poor and downcast.

Look backward – see Christ dying for you.
Look upward – see Christ pleading for you.
Look inward – see Christ living in you.
Look forward – see Christ coming for you.

The Christian tradition **emphasised** the close relationship of the sufferer to his fellowman, upon whom rested the obligation of care. *Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me.* Under persecution, the health care of the Christian communities was assured

by the priest who was also trained in the medicine as were the Jewish Rabbis at the time. (**History of Hospitals** from Encyclopaedia Britannica online)

In 313AD the Edict of Milan gave freedom to the Church. Christian charity was a great witness. In the middle of the 4th Century, famine and disease struck the army of the Roman Emperor Constantine. Pachomius, a pagan soldier in that army, watched in amazement as many of his fellow Romans brought food to the afflicted men and, without discrimination, bestowed help on those in need. They were Christians. He started the process of becoming a Christian.

Christians earned respect especially in times of plague – when the pagans abandoned their family and friends and the Christians stayed and ministered to them. They buried the dead and performed corporal works of mercy – even under sporadic persecution. The church encouraged her members to minister to the sick. (cf T. Woods. *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization.* Washington, Regnery Publishing Company, 2005. Chapter 9)

After Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire the Church was able to channel its charitable works through institutions – first monasteries then hospitals.

The Basilian monks in the east and Benedictines in the west formed the first monastic orders. Monasteries were surrogate families in which to perfect Christian Charity and this charity spread to the wider community – *The monasteries had an infirmary, a place where the sick were taken for treatment. Each monastery had a pharmacy and a garden with medicinal plants. In addition to caring for sick monks, the monasteries opened their doors to pilgrims and to other travellers.*

In Benedictine monasteries the care of the sick was placed above every other Christian duty. It was from this beginning that one of the first medical schools in Europe ultimately grew at Salerno and was in high repute by the 11th Century.

St Basil the Great founded many monasteries and wrote a Rule of Life for his monks and it was from his practice of monastic charity that he built the first true hospital as we know it today, known as the “Basileus” in 370 AD. This hospital had an isolation unit for lepers, and buildings to house the poor, the elderly, and the sick. Professor Crislip, (assistant professor of religious studies at Hawaii University) states in his book, *From monastery to hospital: Christian Monasticism and the transformation of health care in late antiquity*, a true hospital has three defining features:-

1. inpatient facilities
2. professional medical care, and
3. care out of charity.

Crislip finds that none of the ancient types of hospitals had these three features which were found in St. Basil's. **Many other hospitals were founded on the model of the ‘Basileus’** for example St John Chrysostom founded Hospital's in Constantinople. St Augustine founded one in Hippo and Fabiola – A rich lady who became a nurse founded the first hospital in Rome. (Cf T.Woods. 176-77)

Joy is prayer - Joy is strength -
Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
(Mother Teresa)

With the crusades at the beginning of the Middle Ages, Military Orders like the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John were established to protect and care for the pilgrims in the Holy Land. In 1099 they established a hospital that could care for 2000 patients; it specialised in eye diseases, it was considered to be the first specialist hospital. These Knights were avowed Religious dedicated to the service of the poor and the sick.



Knight Hospitallers of the Order of St John's present day Hospital, Bethlehem.

Continued on Page 4

Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr. Gabriel Taylor, OSPPE

Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE

The Maltese Community were at Marian Valley for their annual pilgrimage in honour of Jesus the Redeemer on Saturday 22 August 2009. After Mass everyone went in procession to the Chapel of the Redeemer where there were prayers and blessings.

In the afternoon, Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Oudeman O.F.M.D.D. celebrated a Mass for over 100 people from the various African migrant communities. Before Mass Bishop Oudeman gave a Marian talk and afterwards a special African song of welcome and thanksgiving was sung for the Bishop. Pilgrims were from the Sudanese, Burundian, Congolese and Rwandan communities.

On Saturday 29 August, Fr Luigi, Italian Chaplain came with the Italian community for a day in honour of Pope St. Pius X. After Mass in Italian all went in procession to the Chapel of St. Pius X with Fr Columba carrying the Relic, which people were able to venerate after prayers.

Beginning with the celebrations in honour of Our Lady's Birthday on Saturday 5th September 2009 there were special days of pilgrimage throughout the month. For Our Lady's Birthday about 450 pilgrims came for the beautiful, sunny day after much rain. Four priests assisted with Reconciliation. After lunch there was a solemn Eucharistic Procession to the grotto of Our Lady of Fatima with devotions and Benediction led by Father Columba.

The Slovenian Community on Saturday 12th September 2009 celebrated the Blessing of the new Slovenian Chapel, 'Marija Pomagaj'. Over 100 pilgrims came from Queensland, New South Wales, Canberra/ACT and Victoria. Celebrant was Professor Father Drago Ocvirk with concelebrants Father Ciril Bozic OFM and Father Darko Znidarsic OFM, with beautiful singing of the Melbourne Slovenian Choir. After Mass there was a procession with Rosary, Prayers and Blessing of the new Chapel. Members of the community gave thanks, after which the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary was sung. Hymns were led by the choir and then everyone enjoyed a lunch prepared by the Slovenian Community.

Other communities who enjoyed their annual pilgrimage during September were the Korean Community in honour of the Korean Martyrs (300 pilgrims), the Italian Community in honour of St. Padre Pio (450 pilgrims) and the Filipino Community with Father Marce Singson for Our Lady of Perpetual Help and San Lorenzo Ruiz. The congregation for the Filipino pilgrimage was the largest ever of their community with well over 400 pilgrims. Each community celebrated with the support of wonderful choirs.

The Italian Community prayed the Stations of the Cross before Mass. The Korean Community (in which there were many young families), played Korean drums and percussion in the afternoon along with games for all. The Filipino Community after Mass, went in procession to the Filipino Chapel where there were prayers and blessings, after which all enjoyed a wonderful lunch together under the large pine trees near the monastery.

After Mass for All Souls Day on Monday 2nd November 2009, Father Columba led special prayers for the Holy Souls at the First Station of the Cross. These prayers also especially included all those whose names have been placed in Remembrance on plaques along the Way of Intercessions.

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday 8th December, about 200 pilgrims braved the heat for Mass at 11am and then Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 1pm. At 1.45pm there was Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Father Mauro Conte C.S. celebrated Italian Mass for the pilgrims on St. Lucy's Day on Saturday 12th December. After Mass Father Mauro and the pilgrims processed in prayer to the Chapel of St. Lucy.

Sixteen members of the Anglican Parish of St. Margaret at Nerang came with their Pastor for a weekend retreat.

Father Columba was overseas for Christmas and into the New Year. We were greatly blessed to have Father Damian from our Monastery in New South Wales to assist at Marian Valley.

On 4th January 2010, Father Albert arrived from New South Wales with a group of young men enquiring about the Order. Two from Brisbane also joined the group for the week of prayers and talks.

Father Albert was still with us for Mass on January 15th, the Solemnity of St. Paul the First Hermit. During Mass, Father Albert, Father Gabriel and Brother Luke renewed their vows.

For Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, 450 pilgrims journeyed to Marian Valley from areas of Brisbane, the Gold Coast and northern New South Wales. A mini-bus of students with staff came from Grace Lutheran College. Celebrant for the Mass was Father Michael Grace, ordained in December for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Father Columba concelebrated and gave the spiritual talk in the afternoon before the Solemn Eucharistic Procession to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, where there were prayers of petition. After returning to the main Chapel, each person was blessed with the Blessed Sacrament. Father Michael and Father Gabriel met with the students from Grace Lutheran College and answered their questions about the meaning of pilgrimages. After much rain on the previous weekend and throughout the week, everyone rejoiced that God had given us such a beautiful sunny day on which to celebrate and honour Our Lady of Lourdes.

Six children from homeschooling families celebrated their first Holy Communion on Sunday 14th February. Beautifully dressed, the children prayed together in preparation before Mass. It was a very joyous occasion for the children, families and friends.

Since our last edition of the Chronicles, Marian Valley welcomed groups of elderly pilgrims from the Gold Coast, Beaudesert and Brisbane. Parish groups included day retreats from St. Paschal's and St. Fabian's, also from the parishes of Woodridge, Nudgee, Upper Coomera, Wynnum and Loganholme.

Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care spent a day's retreat in October with their Chaplain Father Jim Smith. Also in October there was a retreat day for the Knights of the Southern Cross from Caboolture. Youth from the Spanish speaking Community had retreat days with their Chaplain Father Hector Zuniga C.S. The Ukrainian Catholic Rite Community with their Chaplain Father Jarko Pasok celebrated the Holy Liturgy in November, with Father Jarko also leading the singing of the Akathist Hymn in honour of the Virgin Mary.



Ancient Christian Mosaic, Palermo, Sicily

The code for the reception of a patient to the Jerusalem Hospital of the Knights of St John, written by Du Puy, the 'Master of the Hospital' states that, - ...when the sick man shall come, let him be received thus: let him partake of the holy sacrament, first having confessed his sins to the priest, and afterwards let him be carried to bed, and there treated as if he were a lord. As a model for both charitable service and unconditional devotion to the sick, Du Puy's decree became a milestone in the development of the hospital. (Guenter B.Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls: A history of Hospitals*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999). 79ff)

The Jerusalem hospital was a model that was emulated all over Europe. The Knights Hospitallers of St John gave us the name Hospital and the legacy of the St John's Ambulance. This order is still active today under its more popular title of the 'Knights of Malta – the run hospitals and hospices and perform many other charitable works. Indeed, today if you collapse in St Peter's Square at the Vatican it will be the Hospitaller Knights of St John who will come to you and render medical assistance.



'Association of the Knights of Malta fundraising in Latvia for their Ambulance Corps'

When King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and supplanted the Catholic Church in 1540 it took 200 years before a new hospital was built in England. (History of Hospitals from Encyclopedia Britannica online) The English sorely missed the health care provided by the Catholic Church once it had gone.

As well as the priests, monks and knights dedicated to the help of the sick, there have been countless thousands of nuns and brothers in religious orders and selfless lay people dedicating their lives to the care of the sick often in very trying circumstances, down to the present day.

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. (G.K. Chesterton)

Shrines, especially shrines to Our Lord as well as Marian shrines have traditionally been places of pilgrimage for the sick that come hoping and praying for a cure especially after the Holy Land was invaded by Islamic forces which made it difficult and dangerous to get there. I have been to the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Poland, the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, Lourdes and that of Michael the Archangel in Italy and know enough about Tourdes to notice something in common with them all - the countless volunteers who help the sick, the hostels for the sick – in a word, Charity. In our own little shrine here at Marian Valley you can see that Christian charity at work in our volunteers who work selflessly to minister to all the pilgrims.

Voltaire, the most anti-Catholic propagandist of the 18th Century, was awed by the heroic self-sacrifice that animated so many of the Church's sons and daughters. **"Perhaps there is nothing greater on earth" he said, "than the sacrifice of youth and beauty, often of high birth, made by the gentle sex in order to work in hospitals for the relief of a human misery, the sight of which is so revolting to our delicacy. Peoples separated from the Roman religion have imitated but imperfectly so generous a charity."** (Michael Davies, *For Altar and Throne: The Rising in the Vendee – St Paul, Minn., Remnant 1997.13*)

Our new monastery at Marian Valley is nearing completion. We hope to be moved into our new accommodation by May. In the next edition of Mary's Rose there will be a special article on it and photos. Thank you for all your prayers and support

Simon Patten a 20th century economic thinker has this to say about the Church in the Middle Ages:- **It provided food and shelter for the workers, charity for the unfortunate, and relief from disease, plague, and famine, which were but too common in the Middle Ages. When we note the number of hospitals and infirmaries, the bounties of the monks, and self-sacrifice of the nuns, we cannot doubt that the unfortunate of that time were at least as well provided for as they are at the present.** (J.Ryan. *Charity of Charities, Catholic Encyclopedia, 2nd ed. 1913*)

I fear that we are losing our Christian legacy in the West. Our hospitals and health-care systems are becoming mere bureaucratic institutions of the state – a political pawn to be fought over...where budgets are what counts, not people....where the old Roman pagan ideas of a stoicism, that see mercy and compassion as unjust or weakness, are coming back into fashion.

We have to strive to keep Catholic Christian charity alive especially when dealing with the sick and infirm. Catholic Christians have provided the charity or Love in our civilization – it is then the heart, the seat of love.... If we take out the heart then the body dies.... Friends we have to get back to doing the works of charity of the early church. First comes prayer, then looking after others....and you can do both of those things here today. Actually we can all strive to do them everyday.

The Value of Testimonies

When we write our Testimonies we recognize The Almighty Father's walk with us and we can but marvel at our blessings.

Margaret and Bern Foley's total acceptance and obedience TO THE WILL OF GOD but with incredible humility, means much shall never be told, but Marian Valley is their signature forever.

It is our privilege to write our testimonies and bring to life the history of this wonderful Shrine. We look forward to receiving yours.

Pat Ashton, 628 Beechmont Rd, Lower Beechmont Qld 4211

Julanne Murphy, PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275

Suzanne Redgrave, Finch Rd, Canungra Qld 4275

The Order of St. Paul The First Hermit

Young men interested in seeking a life of prayer and service to Jesus through Mary might think of the Monks of St. Paul the Hermit. We are a semi-contemplative monastic order especially devoted to Mary. Our Life is: Contemplation; Divine Liturgy; Devotion to Our Lady. Our work is: Shrines; Pastoral; Retreats.

For further information, write to:

Vocations Director, Order of St. Paul the Hermit, Penrose Park, 9 Hanging Rock Rd. Berrima. NSW 2577

REMEMBER MARIAN VALLEY IN YOUR WILL

The Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley survives totally on the donations of the faithful. If you would like to help Marian Valley in the future you might consider remembering us in your Will. If you would like to do this, the correct way to put us in your will is: **The Trustees of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers for use at Marian Valley, 2541 Beechmont Rd. Witheren, Qld 4275**