



# MARY'S ROSE

## NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley

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## *News from 'Marian Valley'*

Dear Friends, Many people are surprised when they find out that as well as being a Pauline Monk and the Superior and Rector of the Shrine at Marian Valley, I am also a full time Police Chaplain with the Queensland Police Service. In this edition of 'Mary's Rose', I thought I would share with you a little of what I do as a Police Chaplain and how it relates to my ministry at Marian Valley.

I am the Police Chaplain for the South Eastern Police Region of Queensland. This extends from Coolangatta on the border with New South Wales, through the Gold Coast, Coomera and up into Logan and the Southern suburbs of Brisbane, and west to Beaudesert and Rathdowney. There are about 1500 sworn Police and 300 unsworn staff members in the Region. I have a Chaplaincy office at the Regional Headquarters in Surfers Paradise.

My role as a Chaplain is to provide Christian Pastoral Care to Police, staff members, Retired Police and their families. To provide this Pastoral Care a Chaplain needs to be open and able to relate to all people regardless of race, religion or moral circumstances. A Chaplain is there to provide a forum where a person can come to talk about personal problems and receive advice and counsel in the strictest of confidence.

As a Chaplain I am available, when requested to help with preparation and celebration of Catholic Baptisms, marriages and funerals and I get to Bless Police Stations and vehicles. I also do Hospital and home visitations.

When I am not at a meeting with an individual or group, I move around visiting Police establishments providing a visible presence of Christ, a bit of a chat and even a joke or two. In Chaplaincy we call this the 'theology of Presence'. By 'being around the place' regularly helps a Chaplain establish a pastoral relationship with Police employees so that if they need specific pastoral support they are comfortable in talking to the Chaplain about their difficulties.

Chaplains also support police officers at emergency situations or critical incidents that may involve extreme violence, multiple or traumatic deaths, and anything else that might cause potential trauma to the officer, for example, the officer having to fire his or her weapon. This sometimes requires call outs in the middle of the night – so for the most part, a Chaplain needs to remain contactable.

As a Police Chaplain I have had to see many gruesome scenes. When you come face to face with the heinous crimes people do to each other, I think you get a greater appreciation of evil and its reality in our world. Police are subjected to this evil on a regular basis. If it is not the evil acts of people that they are a witness to, then it is often one of grief and sadness at the scene of an accident.

I believe, as a Catholic Priest, that when I attend these situations or talk to officers about them I am bringing the 'Light of Christ' into areas of great darkness. Chaplaincy is not so much about what you do as much as who you are and who you represent. The positive response of officers in these situations to the Chaplain's presence is really a positive response to the presence of Christ who 'dispels the darkness of this world'.

Being a Police Chaplain is very demanding but also rewarding. I work as a Chaplain Monday to Friday and on some weekends 'on call'. On weekends and nights I attend to the business of the Shrine with Prayers, Masses, Spiritual Direction and Administration. Marian Valley provides me with an opportunity to recharge my spiritual batteries in order to keep doing the Chaplaincy ministry. Marian Valley does the same thing for many people, recharging their spiritual batteries so they can face the challenges of daily life.

When I go out to do the chaplaincy work I know I am not alone. My brothers in the monastery support me and the chaplaincy, by their prayers and working around the inconvenience of me being away from the Shrine so much. I know also that the Marian Valley family supports me with their prayers and assistance at the Shrine. Finally I know that over the past twelve years that I have been a police Chaplain the Blessed Virgin Mary has supported and encouraged me in the Chaplaincy and I will continue as long as she wants me to. We Catholics have a great gift, our Faith, and we have the responsibility as Baptised Christians to share that Faith with others, to spread the "Good News" in whatever way God calls us to do.

Fr Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE



Fr Columba with Sergeant Angus

# The Work of Evangelization

by Fr Peter Zytka OSPPE

The work of evangelization is the most important work a Christian can undertake, because it helps people enter Heaven. Paul VI wrote "The whole Church therefore is called upon to evangelize, and yet within her we have different evangelizing tasks to accomplish" (EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 66)

Each of us has a certain calling, and yet all these callings are ultimately vocations to evangelize, because they are extensions of the Great Commandment to love God and neighbour. We can evangelize in many ways, including prayer and offering up our sufferings for the salvation of souls.

St. Therese, born in 1873 and died when she was just 24 years old on September 30, 1897, gave her life for the salvation of souls and for the renewal of the Church. She was proclaimed by Pope Pius XI "Patroness of the Missions" and by Pope John Paul II, "Doctor of the Church". St. Therese wrote, "I had huge aspirations that were a martyrdom for me and I was looking for an answer". The answer came from one of St. Paul's letters (1 Cor 12-13), which states that "not everyone can be both apostles, prophets, teachers" and that the Church is a body that has many parts. "I wanted to be everything, but I could not and realized that there is a part of the body, necessary and noble, that cannot be missing: the Church has a heart, burned by love". St. Therese realized then that "only love drives the parts of the body into action. If love had been extinguished, the Apostles would not have preached the Gospel and martyrs would not have shed blood". Thus, the saint said: "Here I have found my vocation: in the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be the love".

St. Therese was in a convent all her religious life, never stepping outside, yet she was made Patroness of the Missions because she sacrificed so much for the salvation of souls. She united all her sufferings with the sufferings of Christ, and offered them up for their salvation. Her efforts were simple, she taught that even "picking up a needle" out of love for Jesus can save a soul! She made her whole life a holocaust for the salvation of souls, and so has been called by St. Pius X, the "greatest Saint of modern times."

There are also more direct works of evangelization we can carry out. For example, we can carry some Miraculous Medals on our persons, and learn the short story of the Miraculous Medal (helps if the Medal is attached to a leaflet), and look for occasions where we can give it to friends, family, and even complete strangers on a train that we may strike up a conversation with!

It has happened to me a number of times in the past, that I've struck up a conversation with someone in public and the topic turned to religion and an opportunity to evangelize. Once I was invited to a conversation because the lady on the train was interested in the book I was reading, we eventually parted ways with her receiving a Miraculous Medal!

We can also give holy books and videos to our family and friends for their birthdays or special occasions. It is sad how many of us have family members that have stopped going to church. Birthdays are a great opportunity to evangelise.

The Marian Valley bookshop has a great range of materials that can be used to helping our family and friends learn more about God and their catholic faith, and lead a new life in Christ. It has so many wonderful and interesting new DVDs and books, many saints have converted their entire lives to Christ, by simply reading a book, for example St. Ignatius, the founder of one of the largest religious orders in the Church, the Society of Jesus.

We also have a Catechetical library that is being stocked up at the moment, located in the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley. There are hundreds of great catholic books available to lend and even take home (a donation is kindly requested). There is something there for the whole family.



Tony Tibbetsma and Fr Peter Zytka sorting the library books

In the same Shrine, after each Sunday Mass, there is a faith group that meets to discuss the life of a saint, whose feast day occurs during the following week. I firstly give a short talk on a saint, and try to make it as informative and interesting as possible, and then inquire whether the attendants have any questions. Often there are very good questions which lead the discussion into some most interesting areas. Many relate that they find the talks spiritually enriching and educational. This is encouraging, since the more the faithful know about their faith, the better equipped they are to help others come closer to God also.

I have also carried out catholic leaflet handouts in city centres, and have had many friends help me. It is a very wonderful work and conversations about religion get very interesting. Bringing the light of Christ to a person in darkness is the most wonderful thing.

I remember once standing outside a shopping centre giving out leaflets, and a Baptist man striking up a conversation with our group. He was coming out with various Bible verses, and so we simply explained to him that the New Testament he was quoting is a Catholic book, our ancient Church Fathers put it together. He was a little surprised, because it seems to me many Christians presume the Bible just dropped out of Heaven somehow. Also when questioned about basic moral issues such as contraception, abortion, he seemed very fuzzy. We planted a seed that day, that's for sure, and God will make it grow in time (Cf. 1 Cor. 3; 6)

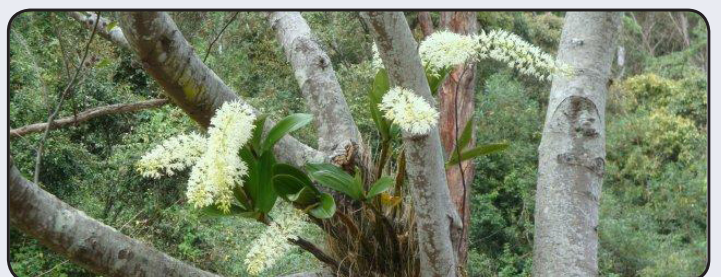
Here at Marian Valley we have a great A-frame stand located in the Church, generously made by one of our volunteers, John Hagan. It stocks many free pamphlets which are full of great Catholic teaching which are short and very readable. One of them is called "How to Get to Heaven" and is specifically geared towards the conversion of unbelievers; it has been very popular and is used extensively by street evangelization groups here and in Sydney.

There are also a great variety of most interesting Catholic DVDs on the A-frame, distributed by another of our generous volunteers, Ray Calabretta. They are sourced from the famous US Catholic TV station, EWTN, and are very instructive for young and old alike. They are also completely free of charge, as Ray covers all the costs. There are DVDs on John Paul II's Theology of the Body, encouraging young people to lead pure and chaste lives according to their vocation, DVD's on how to practice the Virtues in the Christian life, and also some DVD's specifically geared towards children to help them understand their faith from an early age. They are a veritable treasure trove of information that are bound to result in virtues multiplying in our world.



Ray Calabretta, Fr Peter & John Hagan

So to conclude, it is true that we are all called to evangelize. It is the will of God and His Church that every single one of us help bring people closer to Christ. It's the most wonderful work we can do in this world, and utterly fulfilling. Marian Valley certainly provides ample resources for us to be great evangelists, whether it'd be to our family, friends or even acquaintances we may meet on the street; "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



Orchids near the Lourdes Grotto



## From the Marian Valley Archives

by Pat Ashton

As we celebrated Our Lady's Birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup> September this year, we became more aware of its significance to Marian Valley and its unique place in our History.

Around 600 people came to Marian Valley for this joyful day which started with a holy hour and confession at 10.00am. with five priests present for confession. Mass at 11.00am was celebrated by Fr Columba Macbeth-Green who gave an inspiring talk on the connection between the old and the new covenant and the rosary. After lunch, hundreds of pilgrims joined the Eucharistic procession to Our Lady of Fatima with devotions and benediction at the Grotto. It was truly a wonderful, spiritual day.

**HISTORY:** Through Margaret and Bern Foley (deceased) and their unconditional 'YES' to God's Will many years ago, they spread the Devotion of Praying the fifteen decades of The Rosary as a gift to Our Blessed Mother on Her Birthday, not only in Australia but around the world. As a result, as we pray on this day we join with countless millions around the globe and offer our prayers for world peace.

The catalyst for this was when their eldest daughter Margaret Mary who was 22 years old at the time, was involved in a horrific motor accident and against all odds lived in a coma for 2 ½ years. From day one, they spread praying the Rosary for her cure. Then a few months prior to her death they were drawn to **Pray For World Peace**.

Initially, in 1977 their aim was for 1,000 Bouquets of Rosaries for Our Lady's Birthday, at a modest estimate they received 100,000. Spurred on by such a result they decided to broaden their request and the following year fourteen Cardinals and five hundred Archbishops and Bishops approved of the Crusade in their Diocese. In this way it was spread into more than 60 countries of the World.

It is known as **The Universal Rosary Bouquet**.

It has been said "They sparked an idea and it spread from Country to Country as fire spreads through a tinder dry forest."



Devotions at the Grotto on Our Lady's Birthday

## Testimony

...By Pat Ashton

Some months ago, I was talking with a Polish lady at the Pope John Paul II shrine and in a casual conversation I was admiring the very beautiful white roses and their incredible perfume/fragrance. She told me that they were from cuttings from The Vatican and guess what? The Rose is named "John Paul".

## Profile of Brother Zachary Lewis

Brother Zachary Lewis, a seminarian in the Order of St Paul the First Hermit, spent a couple weeks in July/August 2012 experiencing the life of a monk at Marian Valley. During his stay, we asked him a few questions.

**Where were you born?**

I was born in Sydney on 29th March 1989

**What study have you completed?**

In July 2010, I completed my year as a Novice in Poland and I am about to begin my 3rd year of studies in Rome at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

**Why did you choose the Order of St Paul the First Hermit?**

As a child I felt I had a calling towards the priesthood and was an altar boy for 10 yrs. However, when I visited the Shrine at Penrose Park, this drew me closer to the Order of St Paul the First Hermit. I loved the idea of monasticism i.e. being a monk. After 2 years of discerning, I entered the Order.

**What has been the highlights since joining the Order?**

The chance to study in Rome has been amazing. Rome is the centre of Christendom, there is a church on every corner, and you get this strong understanding of the Universal Church. Some of my class mates include a seminarian from the underground church of China, to a seminarian from Iceland (first native-born Icelandic seminarian for 150 years). Also, to add to this, I would have to say, fostering my Marian devotion.

**Have there been any downfalls?**

Not really. However, I do miss my family and friends and being with my fellow community whilst studying in Rome.

**Your favourite sport?**

Rugby League. My favourite team is South Sydney's Rabbitohs

**Your favourite hobby?**

Reading, sketching, listening to all types of music in particular classical and Gregorian chant.



## November Mass Intentions for The Holy Souls

November is a special month of the year for prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Mac. 12:46).

"From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends alms-giving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1032.)

Remember that the Church teaches us how to put into practice mercy to our fellow man in the seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The seventh Spiritual Work of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead.

The Pauline Fathers will be accepting offerings for November Masses to be said for the Intentions of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If you would like to have Masses offered for the soul of a loved one or some of the "forgotten" souls who have no one to pray for them, please fill in the form posted with this newsletter and return the form to Marian Valley, PO Box 104, Canungra Qld 4275.

These forms will be placed on the altar, and the intentions will be included in the Masses which we celebrate each day in November for the Holy Souls.



Deanna Ryan admiring the 'John Paul' rose



# Ordination of Fr. Richard Green

By Robyn Maciejewski

On Sat 28th April several fortunate volunteers from Marian Valley attended the ordination of Brother Richard Green, at Berrima in the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park.

The ordination commenced at 11am on a typically crisp sunny morning and the beautifully decorated Church was filled to capacity.

The mix of traditional and contemporary music was selected by Brother Richard and was capably lead by organist Michael Taylor and 2 local choirs.

It was a great privilege to be invited and to share the occasion with all the other monks of St Paul the First Hermit in attendance, showing a wonderful spirit of camaraderie with their newly ordained brother.

Fr. Richard then invited us to a grand luncheon in the "tent" where refreshments, speeches, cake cutting and photo/video opportunities were available. Our own Fr. Columba serenaded the newly ordained Fr. Richard to the tent on the now familiar famous bagpipes!!

Fr. Richard is now serving his time in Moss Vale parish but he aspires to return to Marian Valley when the first opportunity allows. It was a wonderful occasion for his parents and family as well as all those who travelled a fair distance to see one so young and dedicated commit himself to the service of the Lord.

May God bless our new Fr. Richard in all his undertakings in his Priestly ministry.



Tony and Deanna Ryan, Robyn Maciejewski, Mick Kent, Fr Richard Green, Julianne Murphy, Jonathan Dwyer.

## 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,

6 Justin St, Smithfield NSW 2164

**"St Joseph's Hermitage Retreat Centre has hermitage-style Retreat cabins with a magnificent Chapel of Adoration located in a serene, naturally occurring beautiful setting, and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal to individuals and small groups. The cost is \$25 per night and each cabin has two single beds and is self-contained. The serenity of the surroundings, the lovely views, as well as the close proximity of Church, daily Mass, shrines and Adoration chapel, makes the Centre ideal for retreats."**

## The Chronicles

by Fr. Anthony David OSPPE

Monday 19th March, on the Solemnity of St Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we had our Lenten Retreat Day, with around 110 people attending. After lunch, Fr Peter gave a spiritual talk on St Joseph followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

On Good Friday, around 2500 pilgrims came to Marian Valley throughout the day to pray the Stations of the Cross, many coming with their ethnic groups. Fr Peter and Fr Anthony heard confessions for most of the day. At 3.00pm, Fr Columba led the prayers for the Stations of the Cross and then returned to preside at the Good Friday liturgy at the Main Chapel.

On Saturday 14th April, around 200 Hungarians came for the blessing of their new Blessed Eusebius Chapel by Bishop Ferenc Cserhati from Hungary, with Fr Columba cutting the ribbon. Fr Denes Ledecz from Sydney and Fr Laszlo Horvath from Adelaide also attended.

Despite the wet weather, around 650 people attended Divine Mercy Sunday with six priests hearing confession. After lunch, Fr Peter gave a talk, followed by a Eucharistic procession, prayers, hymns and concluded with individual Eucharistic blessings and Benediction.

Bishop Jeffrey Jarrett from Lismore was the main celebrant at the mass of Our Lady Help of Christians on Saturday 19th May. Concelebrating the mass was Bishop Joseph Oudeman who attended with his Dutch community, as well as Bishop Cletus from Sri Lanka. Fr Adrian Sharp and Fr Modestus were hearing confessions. Around 650 pilgrims arrived, including several busses from the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Gold Coast.

On Pentecost Sunday, 27th May, it was a very busy day at Marian Valley. Around 200 people attended the 11.00am mass, and then at 1.30pm Fr Ho celebrated mass for around 200 members of his Vietnamese community. Also on this day, Archbishop Coleridge's pastoral letter marked the start of the Year of Grace.

On Corpus Christi Sunday 10th June, Fr Columba celebrated the 11.00am mass followed by the Solemn Eucharistic procession to the Four Altars with around 150 pilgrims.

On the morning of Saturday 30th June, Fr David Nugent from the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist arrived from France, and despite his 23 hour flight, he gave an inspiring talk on the Eucharist at 10.00am and then celebrated the 11.00am mass with Fr Peter concelebrating. The exciting news is that he says he will be returning again next year, probably in July 2013, to give a Retreat.

With Wednesday 15th August being a public holiday, over 300 pilgrims and several priests journeyed to Marian Valley for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by a Eucharistic procession to the Fatima Grotto after lunch

On Saturday 8th September, over 600 pilgrims came to celebrate Our Lady's Birthday, including busses from the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and the Gold Coast. The Celebrant was the Prior of Marian Valley, Fr Columba Macbeth-Green who gave a wonderful homily on the old and the new covenant and the connection to Our Lady and the Rosary. A very spiritual day and the weather was perfect.



## 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**