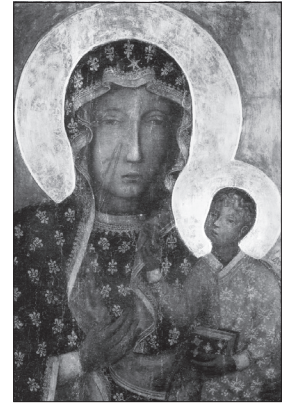




# MARY'S ROSE

## NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians  
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Rector: Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

Volume I • Number 30 • April 2008

### *News from 'Marian Valley'*

As I mentioned in the last 'Mary's Rose' we are planning to build a new Monastery at 'Marian Valley'. At this stage the plans for the Monastery are still in the hands of the local Shire Council and we are waiting patiently for approval to build. Please keep this project in your prayers.

There has been a lot of activity at 'Marian Valley' over the past few months. At the beginning of the year we received a lot of rain, and parts of the surrounding area were flooded. Our Lady's Mantle protected 'Marian Valley' from any major damage, however some road repairs needed to be undertaken. It seems Br. Luke harbors a secret desire to be a High-Wire Acrobat or a Stunt Man – which comes in handy when he has to climb on the roof and clean the gutters, and perform other such 'death defying' maneuvers.

Members of the Vietnamese Community have been busy building a Chapel to Our Lady Of Lavang which should be finished soon.

There has been an increase in the number of visitors to the Shrine from Aged Care Facilities and Community groups ranging from the Quota Club to the MG Car Club. These groups are primarily looked after by Fr Gabriel who gives them a talk on 'Marian Valley' and the Pauline Fathers, listens and shares his wisdom over a cuppa, then takes those who cannot walk very well for a tour of the Shrine in the Golf Buggy (with all four wheels on the ground at all times).

By encouraging these 'non-church' and 'non-Catholic' groups to visit 'Marian Valley' we are evangelizing them by enabling them to come to a Holy Place, to learn something of the Catholic Faith, and most importantly to experience a little taste of the profound peace that only Our Lord Jesus Christ can bring into one's life.

This year is a very important year for the Church in Australia with the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney in July. It is important that we all pray for the success of World Youth Day that Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ might be planted deeply into the hearts of our young people. 'Marian Valley' has played host to groups of young people from local parishes who have come to the Shrine for Retreat Days in preparation for World Youth Day.

After the World Youth Day events in Sydney, 'Marian Valley' will be hosting around 45 young people from the Oratory in Birmingham (U.K.) for a week. During that time over 100 young Italian pilgrims from Milan are scheduled to visit also. This will be a time a great Graces (and a lot of work).

May each and every one of you continue to seek to know Our Lord more closely by allowing yourselves to be lead to a deeper knowledge of Him by Mary.

Fr Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

### *Know your enemy - the Devil*

by Fr. Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

The angels were truly masterpieces of creation. When God, in His Mercy, created angels He made them the highest form of intellectual creatures. The angels are pure spirits, they have no bodies and are not comprised in any way by any material thing. The angels do not think as we do. An angel gets all its knowledge directly infused into it by God. It doesn't have to take in information from the senses and then arrive at a conclusion as we do. The angels never had to think and work things out (what a blessing!), what they know they know completely, they cannot be mistaken or misled or be ignorant of some detail or another. The angels have such clarity of vision that when they make a decision they make it with full knowledge (they are never deceived by the senses as we are, they have an instant grasp of truth) and without the influence of sensate passions (like gluttony and lust). The result being that once they make a decision they never

change their mind, their will is fixed forever.

The angels were created by God to love, worship and adore Him. God did not want the love of slaves who had no choice, for this is not real love at all, but He wanted the angels' love for Him to be freely chosen so He put them to the test to allow them to choose to love Him or not. We do not know for certain all that God's test involved for the angels but many great saints and theologians, especially among the Franciscans, have given us very helpful insights into what that test consisted of.

The greatest of all the angels was called Lucifer (Light Bearer). Because of his beauty and perfection he, and some of the other angels, were captivated by their own glory and magnificence. The other angels did not stop at their own beauty but gave praise to God all

the more for the perfection and beauty that they found in themselves. All the angels obeyed God and acknowledged Him as their Creator: Lucifer and his followers did this purely because they KNEW that God was more powerful than them; the other angels, led by St. Michael, because they LOVED God totally.

### **Pride and Envy were the sins of the rebellious angels**

The Franciscan school of thought would suggest that God decided to reveal His plan for the creation of man to the angels. They were given the knowledge that man would be less perfect than them: (a creature of spirit and flesh), much less intelligent. That the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity would become one of these men by being born of the Virgin Mary. That she would be raised higher in sanctity than all the angels, indeed she would become the Queen of Angels, and men would attain the Vision of God along with the angels. The good angels rejoiced at God's Power and Mercy in raising these lowly creatures to such great heights. Lucifer and the other angels were furious. This was just too much for their pride to bear; they would rather rebel against their Creator than accept a creature like Mary as their Queen. It was the spiritual sins of Pride and Envy that caused these angels to rebel. They fought against St. Michael and his angels and were cast down to Hell. They had made their choice against God: they cannot and will not ever change their decision.

### **The Devil seeks our ruin**

Lucifer, or the Devil, and his angels have made their choice – hatred of God. They have been cast out. The most effective way for them to express their hatred of God is to attack and bring down that creation which God loves so much – US. The Devil and the other fallen angels or demons will use all their great powers to entrap and tempt men to sin and so drag their souls to Hell as well. The Devil thought that he had achieved his aim when he managed to tempt Adam and Eve to sin but he did not count on God's Mercy in wishing to restore mankind to friendship with Him through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of His son Jesus Christ.

The Devil is like a ferocious dog that is trying to bite you but is chained to a tree. It does not matter how much noise it makes and how frightening it appears it cannot bite you. But if you walk over and put your hand near its mouth it will get you.

### **The demons use all their powers to entrap us**

In using their great powers against us the Devil and his demons can affect and penetrate our senses, they can get in and manipulate our imagination and memory, they never get tired, they have great knowledge, ageless experience in getting souls, and supreme cunning. The Devil has done all his homework, he can attack you where he knows you are weakest, he can bombard you with images from your imagination and memory and can have you on the point of committing sin but he cannot make you sin; the decision is completely yours, you must have full knowledge and full consent to commit a mortal sin. God does not leave us alone in this battle. God has given each of us a Guardian Angel to counterbalance the Devil's temptations and if we do fall into sin then God is ever-ready to pour out His Mercy and forgiveness.

Unfortunately for most of us the Devil and the other Demons don't have to work too hard to entice us to sin. The Devil for most people only needs to work quietly in the background, unnoticed, secretly trying to lead us to sin (a lot of the time we sin without the Devil doing a thing). But when the Devil encounters a saintly soul as in St. Faustina who was an apostle of God's Divine Mercy and full of trust in God he is forced out in the open.

### **St. Faustina - special object of the Devil's hate**

St. Faustina was a special object of the Devil's hate:

*"Satan has admitted to me that I am the object of his hatred. He said that 'a thousand souls do me less harm than you do when you speak of the great Mercy of the Almighty One. The greatest sinners regain confidence and return to God, and I lose everything. But what is more you persecute me personally with that unfathomable Mercy of the Almighty One.'" (St Faustina's Diary 1167)*

Devils would appear to St. Faustina as a black cat or as ferocious dogs, they would shake her bed at night and throw things around her room. The Devil tried to tempt her often and frighten her so that she would lose confidence and trust in Divine Mercy and stop spreading the message of mercy to others. But St. Faustina always trusted that Jesus would protect her Himself or through His Blessed Mother or the angels and saints.



*"...I was surrounded by a pack of huge black dogs who were jumping and howling and trying to tear me to pieces. I realized that they were not dogs, but demons. One of them spoke up in a rage, 'Because you have snatched so many souls away from us this night, we will tear you to pieces.' I answered, 'If that is the will of the most Merciful God, tear me to pieces, for I have justly deserved it, because I am the most miserable of all sinners, and God is ever Holy, Just, and Infinitely Merciful.' To these words all the demons answered as one, 'Let us flee, for she is not alone; The Almighty is with her!'" (Diary 320)*

As followers of Christ we must also expect to be the object of the Devil's hatred. He will stop at nothing to prevent the spreading of the Gospel to those that need to hear it. When he puts obstacles in our path in an attempt to frighten or depress us, or tempt us in any way, let us respond to him as St. Faustina did with confidence and trust in God.

## *Queensland Right to Life Rally - Cherish Life*

by Patricia Ashton

On Saturday, 9th February, a group of Marian Valley supporters travelled by bus to Queens Park in Brisbane, to join in a peaceful demonstration against the proposed bill to decriminalize abortion in Queensland.

**The first speaker was Madonna McLindon** - a wife and mother of four, and a Bachelor of Primary Education graduate from the Australian Catholic University. Madonna spoke on the beautiful qualities of care and nurturing that are instilled in each and every woman, and how these qualities support life. Madonna, who was born with a disability, also shared her own story of how, being perceived as a valuable and successful human being, she inspired a couple to continue with their pregnancy of their 'handicapped' baby.

**Dr Graeme Cumming**, founder of the **University of Newcastle's** School of Medicine and Public Health, and currently working as a **General Practitioner** in Mackay, also spoke. Graeme told his story about how his son was allowed to be born, to be loved by adoptive parents, and now to also be loved by Graeme. In his role as a G.P., Graeme is able to help women truly discern what it is that **they** want to do, rather than doing what their boyfriend, mother, or friends may want them to do.

The rally concluded with the release of 450 helium balloons, one for each participant at the rally. The balloons had the inscription 'Cherish Life'. The release of the balloons seemed to signify a victory in 'silence' and commemorated the many innocent human beings who are aborted each year.

**To contact Queensland Right to Life please call: 07 38712445**

## **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, N.S.W. 2164



# Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr. Gabriel Taylor, OSPPE

For the celebrations in honour of St. Padre Pio on 23rd September 2007, there were many pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage of the Italian Community. Celebrant for the Eucharist was Fr. Giovanni Pagnin C.S., who was accompanied, with the pilgrims, by Italian Chaplain Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S..

Fr. Francis Merlino O.F.M., Fr. Dom Cremasco S.V.D., and Fr. Gabriel concelebrated with Fr. Luigi.



The 90th anniversary of the final apparition at Fatima occurred on Saturday 13th October. The Polish Association erected a splendid statue of Pope John Paul II which was blessed by Fr. Andrew Dembicki OSPPE, former Prior of Marian Valley. The Polish Associations with their banners were present at Mass. Fr. Columba was Celebrant for Mass. Concelebrants were Fr. Andrew, Fr. Stanislaw Lipski, Fr. Rafal Rucinski, Fr. Stanislaw Dudek, and Fr. Gabriel. Over 500 pilgrims came for the day. After Holy Mass all went in procession to the statue of Pope John Paul II which was incensed and blessed by Fr. Andrew. After a lunch of Polish food there was a Eucharistic Rosary Procession to the Grotto of

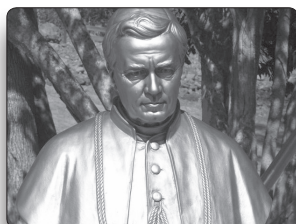
Our Lady of Fatima, led by Fr. Columba.

Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S. was with the Italian Community again on Saturday 20th October for celebrations in honour of St. Gerard Majella. On the following day, Sunday 21st October, members of the Ukranian Catholic Rite came for their Divine Liturgy with their Chaplain Fr. Jarko Pasok.

Beginning in the evening of Friday 9th November 2007, the Diocese of the Military Ordinariate of South-East Queensland began a weekend retreat. The retreatants were accompanied by their Bishop, the Most Rev. Max Davis D.D., and their chaplains, Senior Chaplain Fr. Glynn Murphy O.A.M. and Deacon Gary Stone.

Another weekend retreat began on Friday 30th November 2007 for 26 pilgrims from St. Peter's Parish comprising youth, parents and group leaders in ongoing preparation for World Youth Day.

A group of Italian pilgrims, from his home village in Italy, built a small chapel in honour of Pope St. Pius X. On 15th December 2007, Italian Mass was celebrated by Italian Chaplain Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S.. After Mass, Fr. Luigi blessed the new chapel and pilgrims venerated the relic of Pope St. Pius X.



On Monday 31st December 2007 we celebrated with 80 pilgrims a Mass of thanksgiving for all God's Blessings in the year 2007. After Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament during the evening and Benediction, the New Year 2008 began with the Mass of Mary the Mother of God at Midnight. In the morning there was Mass at 11am followed by the BBQ provided by the Monastery and cooked by Fr. Columba and our volunteers.

In September we were visited by a group of elderly Croatians and a group from Zillmere Parish. October brought groups from the Aveo Retirement Village and 50 pilgrims from Fremantle in Western Australia on a tour of Queensland. Also in October the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care Workers came for a retreat day with their Chaplain Fr. Jim Smith. On Wednesday 14th November Italian Chaplain Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S. accompanied twenty elderly Italian pilgrims from the Gold Coast for Italian Mass and prayers; also on the 14th there were over 30 visitors from the Banyo Friendship Club, and 20 members with their cars from the M.G. Car Club who enjoyed a BBQ lunch, after which they walked around Marian Valley with Fr. Columba.

On Monday 11 February over 400 pilgrims came to Marian Valley to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this day where there are prayers especially for the sick and the elderly, pilgrims came from Brisbane, the Gold Coast, country areas, the Sunshine Coast and northern N.S.W.

For the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions, Pope Benedict XVI had given the opportunity for a Plenary Indulgence. Many pilgrims availed themselves of Spiritual healing in the Sacrament of Penance. Fr. Columba was Celebrant at Holy Mass. After lunch the Spiritual talk was given by Dr. Luke McLinden



of the Ipswich Hospital. After the Spiritual talk, Fr. Columba carried the Blessed Sacrament in the Solemn Eucharistic Procession to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The procession was led by flower-girls beautifully dressed by mothers of the children. At the Grotto there were prayers for the sick, and for the pilgrims in all their needs. After returning to the main

altar each pilgrim was blessed individually with the Blessed Sacrament. This day of great graces and healing concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

## Our Lady of Lourdes

by Fr. Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE

This year marked the 150 anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette, a young fourteen year old girl near Lourdes, France. The apparitions at Lourdes have always been associated with miraculous healing. The waters that issue forth from the miraculous spring have remarkable healing qualities, and many miraculous cures of those who have bathed in them have been documented.

Each year hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock to Lourdes seeking healing through the intercession of Mary.

It is interesting to note that St. Bernadette herself was a sickly child who suffered from digestive trouble and Asthma. St. Bernadette was never cured of these afflictions; in fact, her health deteriorated as she got older. In the Convent she suffered Tuberculosis of the Lung, and a tubercular tumor on her right knee. At least three times she received the Last Sacraments.

On Wednesday, April 16, 1879, her pain got much worse. Shortly after eleven she seemed to be almost suffocating and was carried to an armchair, where she sat with her feet on a footstool in front of a blazing fire. She died at about 3.15 in the afternoon in great pain. St. Bernadette learnt that she was called to suffer for souls and to grow in sanctity through the offering of her ailments.

Pain and suffering are evils to be fought against. But in some form or another they are an inevitable consequence of our human condition. Our Blessed Lord and Saviour embraced pain and suffering as the means to pay the price of our Redemption. Our Lord invites us to carry our own cross and to unite our pain and suffering with His.

Whenever Our Lord healed someone in the Gospels, He made it clear that their Spiritual Healing was more important than their physical Healing. Phrases like 'go and sin no more', 'your faith has made you well', and 'your sins are forgiven' show this clearly.

For the good of a person's soul, or the edification of the faithful, God sometimes grants physical healing. Sometimes, more often than not, Our Lord invites a person to unite their pain and suffering to His very own that He endured for love of us. In doing this, pain and suffering can be transformed by Christ into the greatest prayer and act of love. A Grandmother might be called to offer the pain of her Arthritis up for her Grandchildren who have drifted from the Faith and got into trouble. A man might be asked to suffer in this life (in reparation for past sins) instead of in Purgatory. Another person may experience an ailment throughout their life which teaches them humility before God, and dependence on Him.

It was revealed to St Bernadette that: "She would not find happiness in this world, but only in the next". When we pray for healing for ourselves or others I think it is important for us to remember that the most important healing is that of the Soul.

**To live a truly healthy life, is to live a Grace filled life as a child of God.**

*This needs to be the first priority in our minds, not the curing of cancer or other diseases. If Our Lord calls us to suffer for His sake, then we need to strengthen our souls with God's Grace through the Sacraments and Prayer, so that we may be able to resign ourselves to God's Will, and make this painful offering with joy and heartfelt peace.*

## *"Margaret & Bern Foley - Our Heritage"* continued....

by Patricia Ashton

Thanks to those who have written their recollections of the early history of Marian Valley and thereafter. It is wonderful to read these personal testimonies: so interesting, so personal, and so very much appreciated. As stated in the previous article (on the back page of the last edition of "Mary's Rose") we are presently gathering these recollections before they could possibly be lost forever. If you did not notice the previous article it would be great if you could locate a copy to read, as doing so would make the story below more understandable.

And so, as we continue "Margaret & Bern Foley - Our Heritage", I would like to share with you the following:

During the selling of raffle tickets on "Our Lady of Lourdes" Day, I was also handing out copies of "Mary's Rose", with the above mentioned article on the back page.

I placed one in front of a lady. She looked down at it, and when she saw the heading, she said: "I knew Margaret and Bern really well. I was on duty the night they brought Margaret Mary into the hospital. I looked after her, and used to bless her with Lourdes water every day, and pray that she would die. I got to know Margaret really well, as she used to come in every day."

I couldn't believe that out of the large crowd there on the day I'd been led to this particular lady. I responded firstly by sitting down in shock, or more likely awe, and then I told her it was lucky Margaret Mary did not die, otherwise Marian Valley would not be

here today! From that first night (the night of the accident) the first Rosaries were being said - and they eventually encircled the globe - along with prayers for a Shrine to be built for Our Lady. Of course Novenas to St. Joseph (over a ten year period) also brought us the Pauline Fathers... and the rest is history...

Jessie Wilcox was that same nurse, and we look forward to her forwarding her testimony.

If you have some recollections you would like to submit, please forward them to us. We are all very privileged to be part of this wonderful Shrine, and all our stories are God's stories... we are only the instruments He uses... so we are not "blowing our own trumpets". Everybody's writings - together - tell the story, so please put pen to paper. We are keeping copies in a holding file at Marian Valley, and it shall be left out on the server for people to read. If you don't want anybody to read yours, just tell us, and we will respond accordingly.

Please forward your memories of the Shrine to any of the following people:

**Patricia Ashton**

628 Beechmont Road LOWER BEECHMONT QLD 4211

**Julanne Murphy**

C/- Marian Valley

PO Box 104 CANUNGRA QLD 4275

Tel. 07 3379 9403 or 07 5543 5229

**Susanne Redgrave**

PO Box 133 CANUNGRA QLD 4275



Fr Columba, Br Luke and the Flower Girls venerating the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes



Grotto - Our Lady of LOURDES

## *You did it unto Me*

Early in 16th century Portugal there was a boy named John. At the age of nine he ran away from home to seek a life of adventure. John worked as a shepherd in Spain, fought as a soldier against the French and Turks, tried to ransom Christian slaves from the Moors, and lived in Gibraltar and tried to help God's cause by selling holy books and pictures around the countryside.

Then in his forties he was "converted" by a sermon, and showed his contrition by lamenting his past loudly through the streets of the city, beating his breast. He seemed to have gone mad, and was put in an asylum. There he gave himself to the care of the sick and suffering, and thus found his true vocation.

He came out and began to gather poor men who were homeless, put them in a

house which he rented, and supported them by work and begging. After a time others joined his efforts, and they became an order of nursing brothers.

He used to search the streets for the sick and homeless. One night he found a destitute man who seemed to be dying. He picked him up in his arms (as his usual custom was), carried him to hospital, laid him on a bed and washed him. After washing his feet he knelt to kiss them, and was startled to see them appear as if pierced with nails, the head of each nail glowing with light. From a bed a voice spoke to him: "John, to Me is done all you are doing to the poor in My name. It is my hand that is held out to receive the alms you give. Me you clothe, Mine are the feet you wash." Then John looked up full of consolation, and the vision had vanished from sight. John is better known to us today as St. John of God, the founder of the St. John of God Brothers.

Unearned suffering is Redemptive  
(Martin Luther King)