



# 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, It has been a busy time at Marian Valley since the last 'Mary's Rose'. In January, the whole community participated in the Provincial Chapter held at 'Penrose Park', Berrima, NSW. Fr. Albert Wasniowski OSPPE was re-elected as Provincial and I was re-elected as Vicar Provincial.

The Father General, Vicar General, and Secretary General of the Pauline Order came out from Poland for the Chapter and to conduct canonical visitations of all the order's houses in Australia. They came to Marian Valley on 21st January for 11 days and were really looked after with the invaluable help of the Marian Valley volunteers (God Bless them!). Again our Marian Valley volunteers went above and beyond 'the call of duty' and I thank them very much.

Marian Valley is a Marian Shrine. Marian Shrines are places to encounter the person of Mary in a very special way. Living at the Shrine you get a great appreciation of Mary's humility, she is the humble handmaid of the Lord. Mary's humility is all the more profound when we meditate on graces and privileges that she has been given by God. Mary's holiness and dignity as the most perfect creature God created did not distance her from the rest of us, did not mean that she looked on herself as so much better than us, but rather, brought her so much closer to us, her children. That is the power of humility. Each of us needs to practice humility as the antidote to that great sin of Pride. The worst type of pride is spiritual pride which can lead us to look down on others, be judgmental, be arrogant, and ultimately believe we can do no wrong.

Pride, one of the seven deadly sins could be argued to be the great sin of our modern world. Pride is when a person has an inflated view of themselves causing them to have a negative view of others. We see Pride in the way our western world relies on man's own power through science and technology to cure the many problems of the world at the expense of God.

An insidious form of pride is spiritual pride. This is when a person believes that they have reached a stage in their spiritual life that is high enough for them to judge other people and to even judge God and His Church.

Spiritual pride prevents us rendering to God what is His due and can blind us to the Graces God is offering us by using our own preconceptions about God and holiness as our judge – making God in our own image.

When the devil saw a catholic man about to enter the house of a renowned spiritual director to participate in a class that would deepen his faith and love of the Lord, he determined to do everything in his power to turn him back.

So he subjected the poor man to every possible temptation: wealth, lust, fame, power, prestige. But the catholic man was far too experienced in the spiritual life and was able to fight off the

temptations quite easily, so great was his longing for spiritual progress.

When he entered the room where the class was taking place he was amazed to see the 'Holy Priest' seated in a beautiful big leather covered chair with the people coming to the class on the floor at his feet. "This man certainly lacks humility, the principal of the saints," he thought to himself.

He observed other things about the famous spiritual director that he did not like: for one thing, the Spiritual Director took little notice of him. "I suppose that is because I do not fawn on him like the others do," he said to himself. Also, he disliked the kind of clothes the Priest wore (new and ironed well) and the somewhat conceited way he spoke. All of this led him to the conclusion that he had come to the wrong place and must search elsewhere for good spiritual direction.

As he walked out of the room, the Priest, who had seen the devil, seated in a corner of the room, said, "You need not have worried, Tempter. He was yours from the very first, you know."

Spiritual pride can also blind us to sin. When we sin we damage ourselves, sometimes eternally. Spiritual pride convinces us that no matter what we do, "I will be alright" – the truth is, sin damages us.

People would never sin if they were aware that each time they sin, it is themselves they are damaging. Most people are in too much of a torpor, alas, to have the slightest awareness of what they are doing to themselves.

The remedy to spiritual pride, as we have said is, humility. Receiving the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is the greatest remedy to spiritual pride because it takes great humility to confess sins to God before a priest. Go to the Sacrament regularly.

Meditate on our Blessed Mother, wonder at her humility, notice how she talks to her children when she appears to them in apparitions, simply, lovingly, and with no hint of arrogance or pride. If you meditate on Our Lord's humility as well, you will discover that Mary's humility is a reflection of Christ's. After the Meditation we need to ask for help to be humble then we need to imitate our models of humility – Jesus and Mary – in DOING things with humility.

May God Bless and Our Lady protect you and all your families.

Fr Columba OSPPE



Fr Columba with Brother Angus



## Fr. General Izydor Matuszewski OSPPE

Fr General Izydor Matuszewski farewells the Marian Valley community after spending 11 days at Marian Valley in January 2012. On his departure, Fr General thanked everyone for their wonderful hospitality.

## The Chronicles by Fr. Anthony David OSPPE



On 31st Oct 2011, Marian Valley received a Canonical visit by Fr Albert Wasniowski, the Australian Provincial. At the same time, Deacon Richard Green arrived at Marian Valley and stayed for 3 months doing pastoral work in the lead up to his ordination to the priesthood on 28th April 2012.

On 8th Dec 2011, the solemnity of The Immaculate Conception, Fr Anthony celebrated the Mass with Fr Peter. Deacon Richard delivered the homily.

On Christmas Eve, carols were sung from 11.00pm followed by Midnight

mass. The main celebrant was Fr Columba. Fr Peter and Fr Anthony concelebrated and Deacon Richard assisted.

On New Year's Eve, there was a mass of thanksgiving at 7.00pm, followed by a procession to the Fatima grotto and then the people returned to the Church for Benediction and Midnight Mass. The next day after the 11.00am Mass the Pauline Fathers cooked up a delightful barbeque lunch for all the pilgrims and volunteers present.

The Solemnity of St Paul the First Hermit was celebrated on 15th January with 130 people attending. During a nine day novena leading up to the solemnity, the priests and pilgrims sung together the Hymn to St Paul the First Hermit after each Mass.

On Sunday 29th January, Marian Valley was honoured to have Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett as main celebrant for the 11.00am mass together with the Fr General Izydor and Fr Arnold and Fr Jan from the Mother House at Jasna Gora in Poland. At this Mass, Stephen Hill (former Anglo-Catholic priest) was received into the Catholic Church.

On Saturday 11th February it was the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr Columba was the main celebrant. At 1.00pm, a spiritual talk on the Miracles of Lourdes was given by Fr Peter Zytka. This was followed by a procession to the Lourdes grotto. The people then returned to the Church for benediction and individual blessing for each person present. Over 350 people attended and enjoyed the spiritual healing and blessings of the Feast day.

## From the Marian Valley Archives .....by Pat Ashton

Keith Gordyn

May 27th 1939 – Jan 10th 2012

On 10th January, we saw the passing of a very holy, dedicated and much loved man in Keith Gordyn. A tribute to Keith was noted in the journal of "The Servants of Mary Help of Christians". It tells of his great love of Our Blessed Lady. He built a 'Marymobile' to house the statue of Our Lady Help of Christians and travelled many, many kilometres with it in the back of his trailer. In fact, Keith's initial visit to Marian Valley was to deliver the statue of Our Lady Help of Christians in the 'Marymobile'. He stayed at Marian Valley and helped build the first Chapel for its installation. He then helped build Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel. After twelve months, Keith returned to Sydney and eventually took over from Brian Burgess as President of "The Servants of Mary Help of Christians" Marian Centre. Keith once shared with me his love of visiting schools and teaching. Keith will be sadly missed.



Blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians statue on 24th May 1997. Keith (in white shirt) carrying the statue.



Keith Gordyn being thanked by Fr Andrew Dembicki OSPPE for his assistance with the building of Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel in Dec 1997



In January 2012, Marian Valley received a visit from Poland by the Father General of the Pauline Order, Fr. Izydore Matuszewski, together with the Vicar General Fr. Arnold Chrapkowski and the Secretary-General Fr. Jan Berny. They arrived on 21st January and stayed for 11 days.

The Order of St Paul the First Hermit is based in Jasna Gora, Poland. They were visiting Australia on their ordinary three-yearly canonical visitation. This visitation is mandated by the Constitutions of the Pauline Fathers and gives the Father General, and his governing team, an opportunity of seeing firsthand the good works the monks are carrying out around the world.

If needs be, they also resolve any issues that can be challenging for a particular Pauline province, and carry out an inspection of a given province's pastoral undertakings.

Whilst in Australia, they also visited our main Shrine, Our Lady of Mercy, Penrose Park near Berrima NSW where they presided over a Provincial Chapter. All the monks from the Australian Province gathered together to elect a new Provincial and Province Council and to discuss important issues facing the province at the present time, as well as our aspirations for the next three years.

The Father General is like the Prime Minister of the Pauline Order. His authority extends to the entire Order worldwide, to provinces, monasteries and individuals. His authority includes that of commanding and leading the entire Order in matters both spiritual and material in accordance with the Laws of the Church. The monks see the Father General's directions as the will of God for their lives.

The Father General has to visit all the houses of the Order at least twice during his three year tenure of office. This can of course be done through a delegate. His tenure of office can be extended by only one term, after which he is not eligible for re-election, until at least one term of office as Father General has been served by someone else.

The Father General has to be at least 40 years of age and be at least 10 years solemnly professed. He is also to be a man of deep prayer and of great love for the Order's development. Father Izydor certainly is well known for his great devotion to prayer. In fact whenever the monks go on a journey with him anywhere, they know for certain a communal rosary will be said during the trip.

It was a great privilege having the Father General here for a few days, in Marian Valley. During his stay we had the double privilege of having the Administrator of the Brisbane Archdiocese Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett visiting Marian Valley. Despite the language barrier, the two leaders in the Church got on very well, as fellow monks translated for them.

Both men left a lasting impression on those that work and visit Marian Valley. They are deeply prayerful and spiritual men that are worthy leaders in the Church. They left Marian Valley having greatly edified those that met them.

**Photo (top right) from left to right:**  
**Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE (Father Provincial)**  
**Fr Jan Berny OSPPE (Father Secretary General)**  
**Fr Izydor Matuszewski OSPPE (Father General)**  
**Fr Arnold Chrapkowski (Father Vicar General)**  
**Fr Columba Macbeth-Green (Vicar Provincial)**



## Fr Dom turns 90

**On Thursday 2nd February 2012, Fr Dom Cremasco SVD celebrated his 90th Birthday. The following Sunday, 5th February, Fr Dom concelebrated Mass with Fr Columba, followed by a morning tea with the parishioners. Fr Dom is a wonderful supporter of Marian Valley, and is often called upon to celebrate Mass when the Pauline Fathers are not available.**



Ray Calabretta with Fr Dom



Suzanne Redgrave  
congratulates Fr Dom  
(with Fr Columba  
and Angus)

## The Most Asked Question asked by Pilgrims.....by Br Luke

**Q. How big is Marian Valley?**

**A. 209 acres (or 84.5 Hectares)**

**Q. Do the Pauline Fathers grow their own food here at Marian Valley?**

**A. No they don't. Monasteries of old used to be self sufficient in growing their own food. However, in this day and age it is not viable.**



## Faith Group

Each Sunday after the 11.00am Mass at Marian Valley, when the pilgrims have had their cuppa, Fr Peter invites the people to join in a Faith Group which usually includes a talk on a Saint whose memorial is celebrated during the following week, and concludes with a Question and Answer session for those who wish to deepen their faith.

When asked what inspired him to do this, Fr Peter said, "It is important for Catholics to know their faith so that they can use that knowledge not only for their own spiritual development and advancement in the love of God, but also to equip them to reach out to those around them who do not know about our loving Saviour and often live lives of despair. We should always be able to answer questions from sincere seekers of truth because if we are not able to answer their sincere questions then we cannot help them get to heaven."

One of the pilgrims who often attends Fr Peter's talks, Pat Ashton, said "Fr Peter is to be commended for the amount of research he puts into the talk. The result being very educational, very spiritual and most enjoyable".

Another pilgrim who regularly attends Fr Peter's talks is Robert Murphy who commented: "It fortifies your faith, and gives you the knowledge to confront the secular world. Through the lessons, we have learnt to further appreciate the Catholic Church. Fr Peter has a wealth of knowledge from all his years of studying in Rome".



Pilgrims gather at the Mary Help of Christians Shrine to listen to Fr Peter's talk on the life of St Peter Damian

**"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, shrines and Adoration chapel, makes the Centre ideal for retreats."**

### 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**

## Reception into the Church

On Sunday, January 29th at Our Lady Help of Christians Shrine, Marian Valley Canungra, Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, Apostolic Administrator, Brisbane Archdiocese, officiated at the 11am Mass at which Stephen Hill, formerly an Anglo-Catholic priest, was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Prior to his ordination in the Anglo-Catholic Church, Stephen was, and has continued to be, a regular visitor to Marian Valley. He sought Fr Columba's guidance during his time of prayerful discernment. We are overjoyed in his decision to 'Come Home'. A two year course at Banyo Seminary is required before Stephen's admittance to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Rite. Also present at the mass, were Father Izydor Matuszewski (Father General) and Father Arnold Chrapkowski (Vicar General) and Father Jan Berny (Secretary General), who were visiting Marian Valley from Jasna Gora, Poland for a Canonical Visitation.



Fr.Columba Macbeth-Green, Fr Carmel Flora OFM.Cap, Bishop Jarrett, Fr Jan Berny OSPPE, Fr Arnold Chrapkowski OSPPE

### The Importance of Testimonies

All testimonies are important for our history, regardless of size and / or content. But we are in God's Time! Make this time count. Put pen to paper. Please send all testimonies to:

**Pat Ashton, PO Box 104, 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 First Hermit,  
Penrose Park, 9 Hanging Rock Rd. Berrima. NSW 2577**

### Chuckle from the Pews.... by Tony Ryan

**Fr Pat O'Shay, the Parish Priest from Ireland, phoned the Vatican. His Holiness, the Pope, picked up the phone and Fr Pat said "I have just seen Our Lord Jesus Christ walking down the main street of the Village. What should I do?" His Holiness replied, "Look busy".**