

CARMEL CONTACT

from the Australian Carmelites

No. 38, September 1998

Remembering

The year is drawing to a close, and it's time to remember those we've loved who've gone before us – a time to celebrate their lives, to tell their stories.

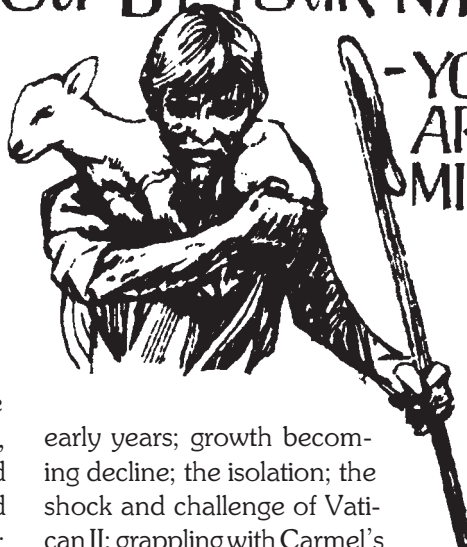
It's a family ritual, and so a ritual for all Carmelites and their friends. During 1998 we've become aware of the lost generations of Aboriginal children and English child migrants; we remember women whose aborted child is with them constantly, the grief of the unmarried woman who bore a child and was pressured to have the baby adopted, the guilt and yearning they carry for years.

Carmelites remember the lost generations, those friars who died young: Gabriel Clery, who came to Australia from Ireland in 1920, to a climate that it was hoped would heal his tuberculosis, and died in Adelaide the same year; Enda Carney, a student at St Albert's International College in Rome, who died there in 1925; Gerard Morganti, missionary in Zimbabwe, who died suddenly in 1961; Shane O'Connor who died in 1997, having scarcely a year as

provincial. Their deaths were tragic, the memory of their lives and courage urging us to continue what they began.

And there are the dark years, the Australian Carmelites' journey through the Dark Nights: the struggle of the

I HAVE CALLED
YOU BY YOUR NAME



early years; growth becoming decline; the isolation; the shock and challenge of Vatican II; grappling with Carmel's place and role in church and world as we approach the Millennium; seeking how to be a praying community in the midst of people and at the service of people; trying to see the way ahead. We constantly try to be aware of those

who encourage and support and love us – the call to all Carmelites to be people of hope.

Carmelites and their friends have experienced in their personal family lives too some aspects of the lost generations. There is the story of Kathleen, a young unmarried woman living in a country town in the years before the Second World War. She became pregnant, the father of her child deserted her, her family quietly sent her to the city – so quietly that her brothers and sisters never knew the reason – where she gave birth to a son and gave him up for adoption; she never met the adoptive parents, but perhaps she did have the consolation of knowing they gave him the name she had chosen for him. She married and brought up eleven children, and no one knew of her first child until he found his family so many years later.

Kathleen was my mother.

Bernard Shah, O.Carm.

Good News from the Director

Our Carmelite Provincial Chapter meeting in April this year set some new directions for our way of life and our ministries.

These decisions were about people and places for the formation of new candidates for the Order; the size and shape of our communities; establishing a Centre of Spirituality; and engaging the province in a process of planning for the future.

We decided to establish our vocations and formation ministries once again and to commit the people and resources necessary to attract vocations to the Order.

We recognise that it is essential that there are sufficient Carmelites in each community to enable the community to live faithfully its charism. So we have tried to increase the size of our communities.

We realise that, as Carmelites, we can make a unique contribution to the search for God in contemporary society. As well as individual Carmelites involved in spirituality ministry, we have decided to try to create one or two "centres of spirituality". We hope that the Middle Park & Port Melbourne communi-

ties may work together to provide opportunities for people to explore and celebrate their relationship with God. We hope that in time the members of other communities may together be able to offer help, support and guidance in spirituality.

We were aware that our decisions at the Chapter, together with our decreasing numbers, may cost us dearly, both personally and as a Province. This has proved to be the case, not only for us, but also for some of those among whom we serve.

With great sadness and reluctance our presence in Pennington Parish (Adelaide) where there has been a Carmelite Community for 109 years will come to an end in December. Also we will withdraw our community from Whitefriars Monastery which has been our house of formation and spirituality since 1937 at the end of this year.

Both these decisions has caused us and the people they affect much pain. As we considered the impact of these decisions it became clear that for our planning for the future to be effective it would need the full attention of one of us. In addition to

being Director of the Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel I will have responsibility for facilitating the planning process.

We hope that by taking a more deliberate and positive approach to the future we might open ourselves further to God's guidance and wisdom as we try to deal with difficulties and complexities which face us. A list of the Carmelites in the Australian Province and what they will be doing for the next three years appears below.

God often seems to lead us in paths we do not expect. As well as working in planning for the future I will also take up the role of Director of the Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I look forward to again sharing something of the Carmelites' life, ministry and prayer with you all.

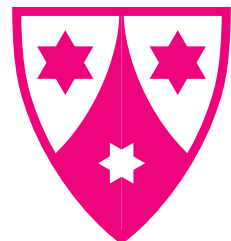
Please pray with us for the continuing guidance of God's grace as we make our way into the future.



Fr David Hofman, O.Carm.
Director

CARMELITES OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE

Fr Joseph Abad	Novice Master, Nantes (France)
Fr Denis Andrew	Parish Priest, Park Orchards, Vic
Fr Maurice Barry	Parish and Hospital Ministry, St Mary's Geelong, Vic
Fr Hugh Brown	Parish Priest, Middle Park and Port Melbourne, Vic
Fr Michael Brundell	Parish Ministry, Spirituality, Adult Education, Coorparoo, Qld
Fr Peter Byrth	Parish Ministry, Tenafly, New Jersey, USA
Fr Paul Cahill	Prior, Merinda, Donvale; Principal, Whitefriars College, Vic
Fr Paul Chandler	Prior, Middle Park; Spirituality, Lecturer, Yarra Theological Union, Vic
Fr Bruce Clark	Novice Master, Vocation, Spirituality Ministry, Port Melbourne, Vic
Fr Marius Dawson	Spirituality Ministry, Upper Room Spirituality Centre, Glen Forrest, WA
Fr Bob Dowd	Retired, Little Sisters of the Poor, Northcote, Vic
Fr Paul Gurr	Chaplain, Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo, NSW
Fr Pat Harney	Chaplain, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic
Fr David Hofman	Prior, Port Melbourne; Strategic Planning, Society of Our Lady of Mt Carmel
Fr Francis Hynes	Retired, Bundoora, Vic
Fr Noel Kierce	Chaplain, Whitefriars College, Donvale, Vic



Reflection

The Fire of Love

In the annual cycle of the Church's liturgical year, there are two celebrations which occur one after the other, and which are linked even more closely than by this simple arrangement of days. The celebrations are the solemnity of All Saints on 1 November, and the commemoration of all the Faithful Departed on 2 November.

The Church recommends that we pray for *'those who have died and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith'* (Roman Canon). In the Communion of Saints celebrated on 1 November, we know that we are still closely united with all those who have made the journey of faith in every age. This unity is made real in the communion of the Eucharist and in our continuing prayer.

Most of us would like to think of our loved ones who have entered eternal life as among the "unsung saints" of All Saints day. Many people are worried about the *'final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned'* (Catechism, 1031). And the use of the words 'purgatory' and 'fire' tends to increase this anxiety. However the teaching of the saints and mystics gives a much more positive view of this final purification.

In the first place, the purification is a fire of love. It is suffering and joy at the same time. It is like longing for someone we love, and whom we know loves us, to arrive. The intensity of our longing and anticipation increases the nearer the

time comes and with the approach of the loved one. We are suffering in a way, but we are also happy. *'I long for love, the fairest of flowers, and inwardly burn with a fiery flame'* says the English mystic, Richard Rolle (1300-1349).

The married woman, Saint Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510) provides a profound theological understanding of this time of purification, and gives encouragement and hope to those who remember the faithful departed with love:

'I see that the sufferings of the souls in purgatory are endurable because of two considerations. The first is the willingness to suffer, the certainty that God has been most merciful to them... The other consideration that sustains those souls is a certain joy that is never wanting and that, indeed, increases as they come closer to God.'

Michael Brundell, O.Carm.



Fr Peter McAlpine
Fr Martin McMahon
Fr Matthew McPhee
Br Anthony Moffat
Fr Greg Moore
Br Daryl Moresco
Fr Ken Petersen
Fr Joe Phillips
Fr Brian Pitman
Fr John Powell
Br Leo Richmond
Fr Anthony Scerri
Fr Bernard Shah
Fr Frank Shortis
Fr Wayne Stanhope
Fr Laurie Timms
Fr Arnold Vaneman
Fr Jerome Watt

Retired, St Joseph Tower, Kew, Vic
Chaplain, Foley Village, Hilton, WA
Parish Priest, Spirituality Ministry, Bridgetown, WA
Parish Ministry, Wentworthville, NSW
Retired, Geraldton, WA
Vocations Director, Spirituality Ministry, Port Melbourne, Vic
Spirituality Ministry, Warburton, Vic
Parish Ministry, Port Pirie, SA
Retired, Foley Village, Hilton, WA
Parish Ministry, Wentworthville, NSW
Prior, Parish Ministry, Chaplaincy, Coorparoo, Qld
General Councillor, Rome
Spirituality Ministry, Wentworthville, NSW
Prior Provincial, Merinda, Donvale, Vic
Parish Priest, Coorparoo, Qld
Prior and Parish Priest, Wentworthville, NSW
Hospital Chaplaincy, Coorparoo, Qld
Prior and Parish Priest, Hilton, WA

CARMELITES

Brothers who:

- Seek the face of the Living God.
- In the midst of the people.



For further information about the Carmelites, write to:

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Personal Profile: Matthew McPhee O.Carm.

My life began at Yarpeet, near Rainbow, a mallee town of Victoria, where our family had a wheat and sheep farm. Sounds good today, but in fact it blew away in the dust storms. We sold out and moved to the town of Beulah, some 30 kms away, where I began school. In the 1930's no one had much, and we were a big family (12 children). I loved those days because I was pretty much unaware of the struggle to survive that was going on in my family.

When we moved to Melbourne at the outbreak of the war I began school with the Sisters of St. Joseph at Yarraville, and then later continued at Surrey Hill. I continued my schooling at C.B.C. Parade, East Melbourne, completing my Leaving. I started work the next year in a wool company, but didn't like it much, so moved to the State Bank where I stayed until I joined the Carmelites four years later, at the age of 20. I had been resisting the idea of religious life until then, as there seemed to be so many things going on. I had a great family life and our Parish was vibrant — Y.C.W., C.Y.M.S., Holy Name, football, tennis club, dances — you name it. However, gradually the call from God became too strong and I joined at Donvale in 1951 as a postulant. I really didn't care from then on what I was asked to do, as I now knew I was where God wanted me to be.

I remember one of the Carmelites telling me that when you go to recreation, you go to re-create others, not yourself, which I found a little odd. One evening after a hard day's work digging I was feeling sorry for myself when someone asked me if I would like a game of table tennis. I remembered what I had been told and I thought I'd try it out. If you won the game you stayed on to play the next person. It happened that I won all the games, so played right through. When

I left recreation that night I felt totally re-created. It had worked. This was to be a major guiding factor for my life from then on — to make room for others gives life.

I was professed in Sydney in 1953, after a year's Novitiate, and returned to Melbourne. There was a big project on to build a holiday house at Portsea from an old presbytery which was transported from Ringwood. These early days were just so enlivening. We worked hard, ate well, slept well and prayed. I was surprised when I was asked if I would like to train as a teacher. The new college "Whitefriars" was to be opened in 1961 and Carmelites were needed to teach. I went back to school to finish my secondary schooling and then went on to do Physical Education at Melbourne University. What a marvelous two years these were! I still have good friendships from those days. I was on the original staff that opened "Whitefriars" and, again, there was a real sense of achievement. I remember trying to combine monastery life with school life. It was difficult and gradually adjustments had to be made. I loved my ten years at Whitefriars College, pioneering.

One weekend, while away on a fishing trip with some friends, I felt sure of my call to priesthood. So my life took a new turn. With great encouragement from the Order, I went to St. Paul's Seminary in New South Wales and, after four years, was ordained a priest. My first appointment was back at Whitefriars Monastery to care for the Carmelite students. Then I was appointed Novice Master. I needed further input for this role and so went overseas, where I had a deep experience of the spirituality of St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila. I remained Novice Master for eleven years, during which time I would run retreats whenever there



were no novices. I loved the work and the wonderful things that were happening to people when they were still and made room for God.

I began giving retreats at "Karith" in Warburton. In the beginning I was on my own. My brother, Rowley, recently deceased, and I built a hermitage on the property which this is still being used today.

Three happy years there and I came to Western Australia to continue retreat work. However, with the shortage of priests, I was soon asked to care for the Parish as well. At present I am Parish Priest of Bridgetown and I live in the "Ain Karim" (Spring of the Vineyard, the birthplace of John the Baptist) community where we run directed retreats, bringing together the active and contemplative life. This year I celebrate 25 years of priesthood and 45 years of profession. What's next?

CARMEL CONTACT

Carmel Contact is a publication of the Australian Carmelites designed to keep you, our friends and supporters, informed about the members of our Order, our hopes and our spirit. It also provides an opportunity for us to support you in your Christian life.

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The Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel supports the life and work of the Carmelites in Australia and Asia. Donations to the Society help educate young Carmelites, support the Carmelite Missions in Indonesia, properly care for aged and sick Carmelites and support the various Carmelite ministries. Our address is: 214 Richardson Street, Middle Park, Vic, 3206. Telephone: (03) 9690 8822, Fax: (03) 9696 0207.