

# CARMEL CONTACT

*from the Australian Carmelites*

*No. 43, September 1999*

***We thank you for those in whose company  
sorrow was soothed ....***



Hilary Januszewski was born on 11 June 1907 in Krajenki, Poland, and was given the name of Pawel. He was educated firstly at the college in Greblin, where his family lived from 1915, and then at the Institute of Suchary. The young Pawel had to abandon his studies because of the family's financial difficulties. After his family moved to Cracow he took up other studies and in 1927 joined the Carmelites and was given the name, Hilary.

He completed his novitiate in Leopoli and on 30 December 1928

made his simple profession. At the end of his philosophical studies in Cracow he was sent to the Order's international college in Rome for further studies. He was ordained priest on 15 July 1934.

Having gained his lectorate in theology and the prize for the best student of the Roman Academy of St. Thomas, Hilary returned to the monastery in Cracow in 1935. He was appointed professor of Dogmatic Theology and Church History at the institute of the Polish Province.

On 1 November 1939 Hilary was appointed prior of the community in Cracow.

Poland had already been occupied by the Germans a few weeks earlier. A year later the Nazis decreed the arrest of many religious and priests and on 18 September 1940 the Gestapo deported four friars from the Carmel in Cracow.

In December 1940, other friars in the community were arrested and Hilary offered himself in exchange for an older and sick member of his community.

He was sent to the prison of Montelupi in Cracow then to the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen and in April 1941 to the concentration camp of Dachau. Here he met other Carmelites who had been arrested including Blessed Titus Brandsma from Holland. Together with the other Carmelites Hilary encouraged the other prisoners, giving hope for a better tomorrow, comforting them and leading them in prayer.

Meanwhile in barrack 25 of the concentration camp, typhus was spreading among the Russian prisoners. Thirty two priests from other barracks volunteered to care for the sick. A couple of days later Fr Hilary Januszewski joined the group. His ministry among the sick lasted just 21 days before he also became infected. He died on 25 March 1945, a few days before the liberation of the concentration camp. He was 38 years old.

Together with 107 other Polish martyrs of the Second World War, all victims of Nazi persecution, Fr Hilary was beatified by John Paul II on 13 June 1999, during his apostolic visit to Warsaw.

# Good News from the Director

I look around my office and see the phone with all its buttons and lights, the computer with its scanner, printer and disks, the mobile phone on the corner of the desk, mass schedules, notes about planning, books about the internet, publishing and the world wide web. On my shelves computer program manuals stand side-by-side with books on Carmelite Spirituality; liturgy books, bibles and hymnals share space with anti-virus and publishing programs. Oh! For a simple life!

We live in a fast-moving, complex world yet long for simplicity. We enjoy much of what the world offers yet we often feel uncomfortable with the complex realities which have brought so much to our lives.

As we met in June at our Provincial Assembly we continued the plan-

ning process we began at the Chapter last year. Planning can be confusing, complex and difficult. It would be easier not to try to look forward, but we know we can't live life looking backwards. To have the courage to look into the future with all its uncertainties leaves us vulnerable – vulnerable, too, to listening to the voice of God without past certainty, but with fresh ears. That is what we are trying to do.

We agreed on three main aims for the next 3-5 years:

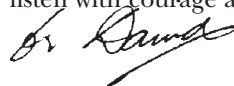
**To form prayerful and fraternal communities** – living, praying and working together can bring richness and nourishment, not only to ourselves, but also for those among whom we live and minister.

**To attract people to these communities** – we want to gather a com-

munity around us which includes those who formally join the Order, those who share our spirit and prayer, those who are part of our ministries, those who are part of our family.

**To find ways of sharing our spirituality with others** – we want to find new ways of sharing our spirituality with others, and of strengthening the ways in which we already share it in our various ministries.

Three simple statements which contain so much! Please hold us in your prayer as we continue to discern the voice of God. Help us to listen with courage and fresh ears.



Fr David Hofman, OCarm  
Director

## Carmelite News

### Jubilees

Father Martin McMahon was ordained a priest in Dublin on 10 July 1949. For over fifty years he has worked in Ireland, Zimbabwe and Australia (in Hilton Parish). On Friday 9 July this year, to mark his Golden Jubilee, he concelebrated Mass with Frs Marius Dawson, Brian Pitman and Jerome Watt in the chapel at Foley Village where he now lives.



Carmelites, Frs Hugo Cannavan (Colombia) Richard Winters (Upper German Province) Antonio Silvio (Brazil) celebrating Mass at Dachau

Father Laurie Timms, Parish Priest of Wentworthville celebrated his Silver Jubilee of ordination on 10 August, 1999. The Carmelite Community and Wentworthville parishioners hosted the occasion for Fr Laurie on Sunday 15 August with Mass followed by a gathering in the parish hall.

### Mothers' Mass 1999



The National Shrine during Mothers' Mass, 18 July 1999

### Mass at Dachau

Father David Hofman, Director of the Society represented the Australian Province at an international meeting of Carmelites in Bamberg, Germany, from 24 August to 3 September. He wrote from there:

*On Sunday 29 August we were taken to Dachau to visit the*

*concentration camp. At the Carmelite Convent which adjoins the camp we celebrated Mass in honour of Titus Brandsma and Hilary Januszewski who were imprisoned in Dachau. The famous drawing of Titus Brandsma by a fellow inmate hangs in the camp museum. Alongside his picture is mention of more than 2,700 Catholic priests who died there.*

# Reflection

## Remembering...

*No man is an Island,  
entire of it self.  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
because I am involved in Mankind:  
And therefore never send to know  
for whom the bell tolls;  
it tolls for thee.*

John Donne, poet and priest, got it right, despite the rather sombre tone. Anyone's death, especially that of someone close, diminishes me: there is loss that can never be replaced, and reminder that I too am finite – the bell tolls for me.

But there is also hope and gratitude, and a joy in the remembering. And this is what we do in November, the month of memory. We remember those who've gone ahead: we grieve, we hope, we rejoice, we love – we remember.

We pray this prayer of thanks, setting aside five or ten minutes each day, at a time and in a place where we've scant chance of being interrupted. We might pray the prayer as a whole – or we might take one of the phrases each day, thanking God the Giver.

■ *Eternal and ever-blessed God,  
we give you thanks  
for those who have meant so much to us  
and without whom life could never have been the same*

Think of those dear to you – parents, brothers and sisters, friends – people who have made a difference in your life. Each time you use this part, take just a few moments; remember how they were, how they gave you something no one else did.

■ *We thank you for those to whom we could go  
when we were tired  
Knowing that they had for our weary hearts  
the gift of peace*

There are often people in our lives whose very presence is peace. We instantly feel comfortable with them. They do not judge us – they accept us as we are. They are peace. We give thanks for them.

■ *We thank you for those with whom we could talk  
keeping nothing back  
knowing that they would not laugh at our dreams  
or mock our failures*

A parent with whom we felt comfortable, a brother or sister with whom we could share anything, a friend who listened – encouraging our dreams, comforting us in failure. Someone we could really trust.

■ *And we thank you for Jesus  
our consolation  
and the saviour of all souls.*

■ *We thank you for those in whose presence  
it was easier to be good*

Goodness is often instantly recognisable. And sometimes as we grow to know a person it becomes evident. Goodness is not weakness: it's strength without arrogance, love that does not demand. When we recognise goodness we recognise God.

■ *We thank you for those in whose company  
joy was increased  
and sorrow soothed*

There are people who are embodiments of joy, sometimes loud and sometimes gentle. They are usually the same people who are there in our sorrows – not explaining them away, not speaking empty words – just there, with us.

■ *We thank you for the gift they were to us  
and the memories of them that enrich our lives  
and that we cherish*

We treasure a gift from one we love. But that person is gift too. Gone ahead they may have, but their presence lives on, is treasured, in memory and in life.



Jesus is living memory, always with us. Jesus is comfort and strength, courage and perseverance. Jesus is Gift and Giver. Jesus saves – enfolds – loves.

# Personal Profile: Betty Warnock

Betty is Secretary of the Australian Lay Carmelite National Council

I was born in Sydney and at the age of 9 my family moved to Melbourne where my Father had taken a new position. We took up residence in Camberwell and I was educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Camberwell and the Brigidine Sisters in Hawthorn.

After studying shorthand and typing, my first working position was with a bank. After 2 years I left the bank to commence a course in Mothercraft Nursing at Broadmeadows Babies Home run by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. After 9 months it was necessary for me to return home as my mother was in ill health. I then joined a Real Estate firm where I was a Secretary for some 6 years.

In 1953 I married Fred and we moved to a new home in Nunawading. We were blessed with 5 children, two sons and three daughters. After a 4 year stay in Swan Hill, Northern Victoria where my husband was transferred as Inspector of Police, we returned to Melbourne and bought a home in East Doncaster where we still reside. To date we are the proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren.

In East Doncaster I became involved in St. Peter & Paul's Parish activities being a Catechist for many years and also co-ordinating and participating in the visiting of elderly and lonely people and taking Holy Communion to the sick.

About the year 1978 a group of women who had been involved in Charismatic Renewal felt the need for further development of our budding spirituality and it was suggested that we seek Spiritual Guidance from the Carmelite House of Prayer which was at that time situ-

ated in Vermont. Shortly after my first visit to Vermont the Carmelites moved to Warburton where they opened "Karith" the House of Prayer. We frequently visited Karith sometimes staying for the weekend and participating in the living and praying of the Community there. This was my first encounter with Carmelites and I was absolutely fascinated by the love, care and acceptance which was extended to everyone who came to the house.

One weekend Fr. Ken Petersen said "Why don't you join the Lay Carmelites?". "Lay Carmelites, who are they?", I replied. I was very quickly told about Lay Carmelites and it seemed that this was just what I had been looking for.

I joined the Donvale Lay Carmelite Community and found it to be a really loving, caring and hospitable group. I was made to feel very much at home and in 1980 I was received into the Order. I made my first Profession in 1982 and my Profession for life in 1985.

It was shortly after my Profession for life that Fr Ken Petersen invited me to join the National Council. I said "Yes" with great trepidation as I wasn't too sure what was expected of me. We were, at that time, a fairly large Council comprising 7 members.

I have to say that being part of the National Council has been a great privilege. As National Secretary I have had contact with many Lay Carmelites on a National level. I have been involved in the last 4 Conventions and it has been just wonderful to at last put faces to names I have known and written



to over the years. I have been constantly amazed at the deep spirituality and prayer life of our Australian Lay Carmelites and I feel very humbled and appreciative of the many sharings I have been privy to.

My journey in Carmel has been enhanced by the support and love of my friends in Carmel who have encouraged me and supported me in all areas of life.

After nearly 20 years of contact with many Carmelite friars I have experienced the ideals of Carmel being lived in the everyday life of these men and by their example passed on to all with whom they come into contact. I am reminded of the saying, "Faith is not taught but caught". This is how I feel about Carmel - The call to Carmel is not taught but caught. I thank God for drawing me to this wonderful Order.

## 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. Donations to the Society help educate young Carmelites, support the Carmelite Missions in Indonesia, properly care for aged and sick Carmelites. Our address is: 214 Richardson Street, Middle Park, Vic, 3206. Telephone: (03) 9690 8822 Fax: (03) 9696 0207 e-mail: carmcent@netspace.net.au