

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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The birth of a baby can bring great joy and celebration. Their birth represents a new life filled with wonderful and exciting possibilities. However, sometimes life does not turn out as hoped.

Tragedy, whether the death of a loved one, failing health, or personal challenges, can make life seem unbearable. This leads us to wonder if we have been abandoned in our time of need. **When we are hurting our faith in each other, our own selves and God can be tested.**

Contemplative prayer helps us to deepen our faith and hope.

It provides the gift of new life by allowing us to uncover God's heart within us. It also gives us the strength we need to maintain our faith in God, ourselves and the community.

The Carmelites build relationships by empowering people to embrace a fulfilling life for themselves, their neighbours and communities.

Read on and discover how the gift of new life is transforming communities in Australia and Timor-Leste.



The Carmelites
Australia and Timor-Leste
community • prayer • action

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A MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Dear Friends,

A new year brings with it a sense of hope, renewed optimism and an opportunity to start the year afresh. For Carmelites it provides us with time to reflect on the year that has been and entrust the Holy Spirit to lead us to renewed possibilities.

Our faith in celebrating Christ's life guides us to heal, to believe and to accept what life gives us. It can also give us the gift of new hope, new beginnings and new life.

This year we are introducing a new Mass - Gift of New Life – to be celebrated on Easter Saturday 15 April, 7.30pm at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Richardson & Wright Sts, Middle Park (Vic). Together in prayer we'll discover ways to heal, find hope and new meaning in our lives through the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

Travelling to our parishes and communities I am heartened by the enthusiasm and love parishioners and donors have for my brothers, the young men studying to become Carmelites, and for the people we serve.

In this issue you can read more about the difference our Carmelite Family is making in transforming lives.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy our new look *Carmel Contact* newsletter, keeping you up to date with news, events and spiritual guidance. We have extended the newsletter to eight pages so we can share more with you. It will be sent to you twice a year in March and September.

Once again I thank you for your companionship and faith, and look forward to your continued support.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



“Old age is a vocation. It is not yet time to ‘pull in the oars.’”

(Social Justice Statement)

At the invitation of the Carmelite Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, representatives from Whitefriars College, Fundraising Development Office, Lay Carmelites and Carmelite Communications, came together in February to discuss ways the Carmelite Family could draw attention to the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement “A Place at the Table”.

According to the Social Justice Statement, “We are in a moment in human history, when so many of us are living longer and have many active years ahead of us.” So how can we as Carmelites endorse, defend and strengthen the dignity of those in our community who are ageing?

Our elderly friends of Carmel are important to us, both in our Parishes and as members of the Carmelite Family in Australia, New Zealand and Timor-Leste. Many Lay Carmelites are already working in this ministry in their parishes. By liaising with the Carmelite Fundraising Development Office, they are extending that support to the frail, lonely or isolated, by visiting and spending time where they can with them.

Whitefriars College students are also breaking down generational barriers by hosting an annual Grandparents Mass and Breakfast. Year 10 students are spending time with elderly citizens in nearby nursing homes, swapping stories, talking about the past and sharing hopes and dreams.

Our Carmelite parishes are filled with many volunteers who have reached retirement age, bringing with them many gifts and talents. Many are already offering their time in our wider communities and it is hoped they will share their stories in future Carmelite communications.

Gabrielle Fogarty
Justice, Peace and Integrity
of Creation Team



THE GIFT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF TIMOR-LESTE

The Carmelites believe that education is not only a gift but a fundamental right for every child. We know that when a child goes to school, they not only learn to read and write, but are given invaluable life skills that help prepare them for a better future.

We stand by the right of every child to receive the Gift of Education, and thank our Carmelite Family who stand with us. Today, there are 430 children attending our schools in Zumalai and Raimea. They can now dream of a job or career, and hope for a better future for themselves, their family and community.

With more children hoping to continue to go to school, this demand has led the Carmelites to open a second Junior High School (Years 7 to 9) in Raimea.

Your support can give the Gift of Education for more children.

Today there are 13 young adults who are progressing well with their university studies. They are able to continue because of the generous support of many Australians who are providing financial support in the form of scholarships. However, there are many more children and youth who can benefit. **If you would like to help a child realise their dreams please call 03 9690 8822 or email fundraising@carmelites.org.au**



Education = Freedom

How your support is enabling children to go to Carmelite schools in Timor-Leste

Zumalai

138 children at our Primary School
130 children at our Junior High School

Raimea

152 children at our Primary School
10 children at our newly opened Junior High School

EAST TIMOR = TIMOR-LESTE

Earlier this year The Carmelites made a commitment to recognise East Timor by its official name of **Timor-Leste**. Our logo has been updated to reflect this change. Along with this, every reference to the country will now be as Timor-Leste. **With your support, we will continue to serve the people of Timor-Leste through community, prayer and action.**



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GIVING THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

All over Australia, ordinary people are creating extraordinary opportunities for the people and communities served by The Carmelites. Their generosity is making a real and life-changing difference to children with hopes and dreams, to young people who aspire to be compassionate leaders of tomorrow, to the elderly and frail who seek comfort and companionship.

Our donors and supporters are an essential part of our Carmelite Family. Their compassion has given the Gift of New Life to thousands of Australians and Timorese. In 2016 over 1,120 caring Australians gave 3,771 gifts. Your generosity and support resulted in \$151,078 raised for our Timor-Leste Mission; \$300,227 for our Australian Mission; \$12,535 for the Carmelite Library and; \$131,707 for the young Carmelite men training to be priests.

Our donors and supporters demonstrated their support by:

- Donating to Appeals
- Giving transformational major gifts
- Leaving bequests in their Wills
- Purchasing merchandise including prayer cards, CDs, or coffee and tais from Timor-Leste
- Making regular gifts as Carmelite Mission Partners
- Being involved in community support groups
- Providing grants



THANKS TO YOU

Below is a snapshot of our caring community and how they are helping to engage lives, restore faith and transform communities through gifts that are giving new life.

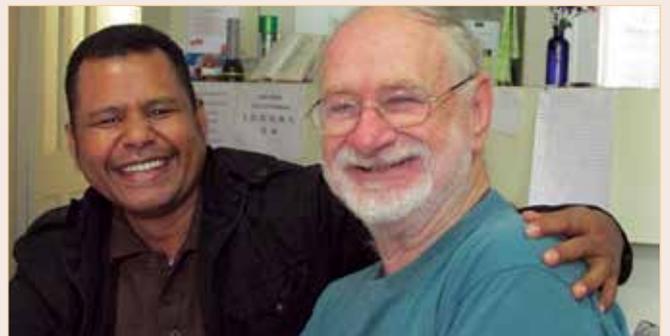
Our Carmelite Family

1,122 caring donors and supporters from all walks of life
Gave 3,771 gifts
Resulting in \$595,547 raised
For our communities in Australia & Timor-Leste



Carmelites in Community

Celebrating Masses & offering Prayers to thousands of people across Australia and Timor-Leste
Providing comfort and companionship to the lonely, sick or isolated
Visiting the elderly in homes, aged care facilities or hospitals
Working alongside the Timorese to help them heal from past hurt and Australians to live a more enriched life



Our Carmelite Students in Formation

Six young men studying in Australia
39 young men studying in Timor-Leste
Comforting the elderly, frail, and hurting
Serving at Masses and assisting with Sacramental preparations
Our future spiritual and pastoral leaders in training



Educating the children of Timor-Leste

430 children in school
13 young adults at University
14 children granted scholarships to attend Primary & High School
27 children staying in the Carmelite Boarding House



The Carmelite Library

Australia's finest specialised collection
50,000 books, journals, papers and research material
Over 500 library subscribers
Sharing a love of theology, spirituality and mysticism
A national treasure open to all



OUR CARMELITE ORDER BRINGS NEW LIFE

It is with great excitement that I share with you the growing number of young men joining our Order. These young men dream of helping people find true meaning in their lives. They welcome you to walk with them as they continue their formation journey.

Our Growing Order in Australia

Joining Brs Januario, Agedo, Matthew and Martinho in Melbourne are Brs Marcolino Gomes and Albino Dos Santos. Both have arrived to begin their English language studies at Yarra Theological Union. Brs Januario and Matthew have completed their Bachelor of Theology degrees at the University of Divinity, Melbourne, and are now pursuing their Masters Degrees in Theological Studies.

Br Januario was also ordained Deacon by Archbishop Denis Hart at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Middle Park (Victoria) on Saturday 19 November.

Our Growing Order in Timor-Leste

During the Opening Eucharist for the Timor-Leste Assembly, Brs Silvestre, Frangelino, Jose and Anacleto were instituted as Lectors. Lectors proclaim the Word of God in liturgical assemblies, instruct adults and children in the faith and prepare them to receive the sacraments.

In early December seven young men were received into the Novitiate in Hera. Fr Bruce Clark (Prior & Novice Master) received the new novices together with Fr Paul Cahill.

Five Carmelite novices also made their first profession of vows and will begin their studies for ministry in Hera.

We welcome and congratulate our brothers on reaching various milestones in their formation journey. We look forward to reporting on the progress of our young Carmelite students.



Fr Bruce Clark, OCarm
Director of Formation -
Australia & Timor-Leste



AUSSIE FRIENDS BAND TOGETHER FOR TIMOR-LESTE

The Carmelites are fortunate to have the ongoing support of Parish and Community Groups united in their efforts to create sustainable change for the people of Zumalai, Timor-Leste. We acknowledge their generous support which saw \$88,150 raised in 2016. Here are a few highlights:

Whitefriars College, Donvale (VIC)

Students participated in their annual walkathon for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Wednesday 5 October raising \$20,000. The College provided an additional \$15,000.

Friends of Zumalai, Coorparoo (QLD)

An ANZAC Day barbeque, Mother's Day stall, State of Origin event, Parish picnic and the annual Christmas Cake Stall & Raffle saw the Friends raise nearly \$8,900.

Parents & Friends Association Mount Carmel Primary School, Coorparoo (QLD)

A number of school activities were held raising over \$10,000. The school gave \$2,000 while the Committee gave \$10,000 from the school fete towards completing the Boarding House in Zumalai.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Wentworthville (NSW)

The school raised nearly \$1,100 for a Timorese student to be able to continue his studies.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville (NSW)

Parishioners held numerous activities including the sale of chocolate Paschal lambs, roses for Mother's Day, cakes, handmade cards and a raffle. Over \$6,700 was raised to help three young Timorese and several Carmelite Students continue studying.

The Parish of Port Melbourne and Middle Park (VIC)

Every Christmas the Parish holds their Christmas Tree Appeal. Parishioners choose a practical gift for the people of Zumalai. This year \$5,500 was raised giving new life to families.

We thank all our Support Groups for their wonderful efforts and look forward to their continued support.



YES! I WILL SUPPORT THE CARMELITES IN THEIR WORK.

Please accept my gift of:

\$30 \$50 \$80 \$200 \$ _____
my choice

Please direct my gift to:

- Carmelites in Community
 Carmelite Students in training
 Education for children in Timor-Leste
 Carmelite Library (gifts are tax deductible)

I would like to donate by:

Cheque / Money Order (payable to Carmelite Friars)

OR Please debit my: MasterCard Visa

✂ _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: ____/____ Sign: _____

I would like to order the following Prayer Cards:

Card	Qty	Card	Qty
Healing & Peace	___	A Gift of Prayer	___
Spiritual Support	___	Sympathy	___
Special Occasion	___	Mothers Prayer	___
Complete Set			

Each card costs \$5 or buy the complete set for \$25 (save \$5)
Plus Postage

My Details: (please print clearly)

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ P/Code: _____

Tel: _____

Mob: _____

Email: _____

Please send me information on leaving a Bequest in my Will

There are three ways you can donate:

1. Complete and return this form to
The Carmelites - Australia and Timor-Leste
Fundraising Development Office
PO Box 5295, Middle Park, Vic, 3206

2. Contact us

Tel: 03 9690 8822

Email: fundraising@carmelites.org.au

3. Donate online

www.carmelites.org.au/donate

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NEW STAFF SEES THE FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT TEAM GROW

I am most privileged to be part of an organisation that truly cares for its brothers, parishioners, donors, extended Carmelite family and staff. So we can continue to meet the increasing needs of our growing Carmelite Order three new members join me in the Fundraising Development team, eager to foster relationships with compassionate individuals, businesses and community groups.

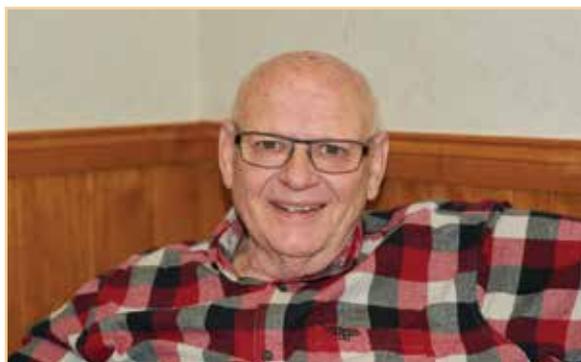
Rose Thomas, Philanthropy Officer – Trusts & Foundations

Rose was born in India and raised in America. She calls herself a “*global citizen*” having lived in six countries with her husband and two daughters, her “*true blessings in my life*”. Travel has given Rose great joy and many fond memories like scaling the Great Wall of China. Rose believes we all need to give back and contribute to the community we live in and sees that the Carmelites live by this philosophy with their life-changing and transformational work.



Graham McKern, Philanthropy Officer – Major Gifts and Bequests

With a career spanning corporate banking and finance, mission planning and stewardship for the Uniting Church, and strategic fundraising, Graham has joined The Carmelites with a focus to build relationships with people interested in making a transformational difference to the communities they serve. As he says, “*The Carmelites do amazingly good work, so I wanted to be part of it. I felt that my strategic fundraising skills may be useful to help donors realise how important they are to our mission.*”



Georgie Ogilvie, Database Officer

Some of you may have already met or spoken with Georgie who joined The Carmelites in April 2016. Georgie spent 20 years with a leading environmental organisation working on their donor and fundraising database. Having moved to Geelong, she enjoys walking in the You Yangs and exploring the many treasures of the Great Ocean Road. Georgie is inspired by the work the Carmelites have achieved particularly in Timor-Leste through the Education = Freedom program.



I am most excited to be working with a team full of energy, ideas and focus. I encourage you to drop by and welcome Rose, Graham and Georgie to The Carmelites.



Nancy Mercurio Fundraising Development Manager



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