

Carmel CONTACT

COMMUNITY • PRAYER • ACTION

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The Carmelites are here to help you and your loved ones when you are experiencing grief, loneliness, or difficulties in life. You are part of our Carmelite family. And as a member of our family, you are not alone.

Through our values of 'Community, Prayer and Action', our Pastoral Care program connects you with Lay Carmelites. Lay Carmelites are lay men and women who are an integral part of the Carmelite family. They live out the Carmelite way of life in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life. **One of their roles is to help you feel connected, valued and supported during your time of need by providing companionship, a listening ear, comfort, reassurance and the promise of prayerful support.**

Francis Micallef, a long-term and loyal supporter of The Carmelites, was a grateful recipient of the Lay Carmelite Pastoral Care program. He received accompaniment and support from a number of Lay Carmelites in the last two years of his life. His daughter Geraldine was deeply thankful for the love, care and companionship her father received.

"We are so grateful of his long association with The Carmelites and glad that you were able to offer pastoral accompaniment and support during his time of illness and final weeks."

If you or someone you know is experiencing grief, loneliness or in need of companionship, please contact The Carmelites Fundraising Development Ministry by email fundraising@carmelites.org.au or call 03 9690 8822.



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

A: 75 Wright Street, Middle Park, 3206 | T: 03 9690 8822 | F: 03 9699 1944
E: fundraising@carmelites.org.au | W: www.carmelites.org.au

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR PROVINCIAL

Over the last few months, The Carmelites have celebrated a number of important milestones. We celebrated the Provincial Chapter for our Province in June where we reflected on emerging themes and discussed what is happening in the worldwide Carmelite Family, including in Australia and Timor-Leste.

After three years of service to the Order as Prior Provincial, I was elected again for a second term. I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our communities in Australia and Timor-Leste as the Prior Provincial.

The Provincial Chapter elected Frs Hugh Brown, Bruce Clark, Denis Andrew and Martinho Da Costa to the Provincial Council. We are proud of Fr Martinho da Costa who is the first Timorese graduate of our Carmelite Student Education program to be elected to the Council.

In September, the General Chapter for the Carmelite Order worldwide was celebrated in Sassone (Rome, Italy). The theme was: *You are my witnesses from one generation to the next: called to be faithful to our Carmelite Charism.* The theme highlights three specific areas to be endorsed: our tradition, the witness our lives give to the world and the challenge before us now as we move forward into the next six years.

After twelve years of faithful service to the international Order, Prior General Fr Fernando Romeral has stepped down from his post. Fr Mícéal O'Neill from the Irish province has been elected as the Prior General, and Fr Benny Phang from the Indonesian Province elected Vice-General.

Lastly, I thank you for your support. Your generosity has helped our Carmelite students continue on their journey and allows us to support those in need through prayer, action and companionship. You are a vital member of our Carmelite family. Thank you.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Paul Cahill, OCarm
Prior Provincial



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN ZUMALAI

At the June Chapter, the Carmelites endorsed the Province's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for children and vulnerable people. As part of the roll out across the Province, the new policy was implemented at our two schools in Zumalai, Timor-Leste.

During three days in August, 37 teachers from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School in Zumalai and St Francis Xavier Catholic School in Raimea attended professional development training about safeguarding children at school.

Community Development Coordinator, Mayra Walsh, facilitated the training in Tetum, with support from Br Antonio, the school Principal. There were discussions about the broader context of child protection around the world and within the Catholic Church, as well as in Timor-Leste and specifically Zumalai.

The teachers spent time looking at practical steps to strengthening the schools' approach towards safeguarding children. One of the immediate outcomes has been the decision to display information in the staffrooms sharing the contact details for all relevant local service providers.

The teachers also identified specific curriculum areas relevant to child protection and discussed ways to reinforce key messages within classroom activities.

The Carmelites are committed to providing and promoting safe environments for all children, young people and vulnerable adults engaged with our Order in Timor-Leste and Australia.



Teachers from Raimea and Zumalai Catholic schools participated in the Safeguarding Children training.

LOVE, FAITH AND THE CARMELITE FAMILY CAN HELP US GRIEVE AND HEAL

Every person will experience the loss of someone or something dear. The death of a beloved person can lead to pain, grief and overwhelming loss.

At just 28 years of age, Br Anacleto has experienced a great deal of grief in his life. This is his story, of how love, faith and the Carmelite family helped him grieve and today care for those who are hurting.



Br Anacleto.

I was born in Viqueque, a city located in the south-east of Timor, about 180kms from the capital, Dili. My parents were farmers, they were poor, and struggled to look after me and my siblings. I was only 7 years old when mum passed away. I don't really remember her. All I have is a photo of her smiling. I carry that photo with me everywhere I go.

My dad was unable to look after all of us, so we were sent to a Carmelite orphanage. While I was there, my uncle came to visit. He told my siblings and I that our dad had died. **I was only 11 years old. I had lost both my parents. I was sad. I felt lost and thought this was not fair, God was not fair.** I really needed them. It was too early for me to live in this world without their love and care. I lost hope, life had no meaning.

I stayed at the orphanage for seven years, from 1999 to 2006. During those years we were well looked after and very much loved. The Carmelite Sisters knew our past, they knew our traumas, and they tried to help prepare us for the future. They encouraged all of us to go to school and so my siblings and I were all able to go on to University and complete our higher education.

“The orphanage was my home, and the Carmelites my family.”

As I grew up and with the support of the Carmelites, I learnt to accept this reality that happened to me. I learnt that God had not abandoned me, but He gave me another family who would love me and look after me. The Carmelites treat me as their own son and provide what I need in my life to be a good man who cares for who are hurting or grieving.

Joining the Carmelites, made me feel like we are brothers. We share meals together and it's the same meal. We are like a family and the Carmelites are like my parents. I have a family who love me, take care of me, support me and help me to achieve my dreams.

I am one example of the care that the Carmelites' pastoral care provides. I think many people need the Carmelites as they do a lot of pastoral care to help people like me. **Pastoral care helps people.**

That is why I dream of becoming a Carmelite Priest and providing pastoral care. My purpose in life is to serve others through the spirit of the Carmelites. **Pastoral care is about companionship and being part of the community, meeting people, speaking and listening to them. The Carmelites bring hope to all people, especially those who've experienced pain and loss like me.**



Br Anacleto (second from left) with his Carmelite brothers and Fr David (centre back).

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS SINCE TIMOR-LESTE'S INDEPENDENCE

Two decades on from the historic referendum in Timor-Leste, Fr Augusto Galhos, who witnessed the crisis unfold, shares his memories.

As a Timorese citizen, I'm so happy to be celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the referendum. In 1999 I was 24 years old. I was a Carmelite student, studying in Flores, Indonesia. Our Carmelite leaders in Indonesia gave permission to 10 Timorese students to take leave from our studies and return to Timor-Leste to participate in the popular consultation.

People in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, prepared for the referendum just like in other elections. The two groups held campaigns leading to the last big pro-independence campaign on 26th August. Lots of people were dancing together, it was really spirited. Then on 27th August was the last pro-autonomy campaign. There were lots of Indonesian flags up everywhere.

On 30th August 1999, I woke up early. Voting stations opened at 8 am and were set up all over the country. We reminded each other how to vote properly, as we knew the officials had prepared nails for us to put a nail home through the ballot paper to make our vote valid. We had to get it right so that our vote counted. By 2pm it was all done. The streets were empty.

The next day everyone knew that once the results were announced, there would be problems. People started to pack their things and go to the mountains, somewhere safer.



Women in traditional dress.



Fr Augusto Galhos.

Because the militia lived among us in our neighbourhoods, we couldn't tell each other our plans. People didn't even tell their own children. They were scared their children would say something to the wrong person. So, they just quietly left.

It was difficult for me and the other students to get out of Timor. There were some scary moments. But, thank God, we were eventually able to leave Timor together safely and continue our studies with the Carmelites in Indonesia.

Now, after 20 years, I can say we had come together to embrace diversity and to preserve our freedom. In contrast to August 1999 when Dili was a tense city where people felt scared and threatened, Timorese people celebrated our independence with lively activities including an official ceremony and concert on 30th August in Tasi Tolu, a suburb on the outskirts of Dili.

During the ceremony, music, visual images and poetry were used as windows into the past, reflecting on Timor-Leste's resistance and struggle experienced during the popular consultation vote in 1999.

We congratulate the people of Timor-Leste on celebrating this important milestone with enthusiasm and style. We also acknowledge the senseless and tragic loss of life that occurred before and after the 1999 historic referendum. For many Timorese families this is also a time for grieving.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CARMELITE STUDENTS

Our caring community of donors continue to show their love and faith in our Carmelite students. It is because of you that our Order continues to grow. Today 50 students are on their way to reaching their potential and achieving their dreams of helping people in their communities through pastoral and practical support.

We continue to be proud of the contributions our students are making in their respective ministries across Australia and Timor-Leste, and how they have successfully progressed in their studies this year.

Here are a few highlights from this past year:

Br Carlito is in Lisbon completing his Masters of Education and Training at the University of Lisbon. He is expected to graduate from the program in December 2019 and return to Timor to work as a teacher at a local school.

And not to be confused, Fr Carlito has completed his Licentiate in Theology at the Teresianum University in Rome earlier this year. He will now commence his doctoral program in Theology at The Marianum University in Rome. He is the first Timorese from the Province to pursue a doctoral degree and we are incredibly proud of his achievement.

Br Agedo graduated from the University of Divinity with a Bachelors of Ministry degree in March 2019 and has begun his Masters in Secondary Teaching at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne.

Brs Albino and Marcolino are currently volunteering one day a week at *Briar Terrace*, a drop-in centre for homeless people and those suffering from mental health and addiction issues in Melbourne, as part of their community work.

And finally Brs. Albino, Marcolino, Avelino, Agostinho, Matthew, Anacleto and José renewed their vows in Melbourne, to live as Carmelites for another year. We congratulate them on taking this step towards making their life-commitment as Carmelites.

Thank you for your financial support which enables our students to engage in their journey to become Carmelites.

Your support makes a difference not only to them, but to the people they will one day serve.

CELEBRATING OUR LOYAL AND COMPASSIONATE DONORS - YOU

You are integral to our mission of helping those in need. It is because of you that little miracles are happening every day in the lives of the people we serve. You have been by our side demonstrating your loyalty through your compassionate support.



We thank each and every one of you for your loyal and compassionate support.

Last year The Carmelites launched our Donor Loyalty Program, recognising our loyal and long-term donors' commitment and continuing support of the Carmelites. Many of our donors have been supporting the Carmelites for more than 10 years, with many more celebrating significant milestones of 20 and 25 years.

This year marked a very special milestone as over 142 donors have been supporting our mission for 30 years! Thank you.

You are absolutely wonderful.

As a gesture of our deepest gratitude we honour these very special 30 Year donors as 'Carmelite Lifetime Partners'. And as a sign of our appreciation each 30 Year donor will receive a Carmelite Lifetime Partner Certificate, a pearl encrusted pin and a unique Timor-Leste bookmark. These small tokens are our way of saying Thank You – two words that we hold deep in our hearts for having you by our side.

We are eternally grateful for your support.

FIRST SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT RETREAT

In August, 18 current and past students, who have received a scholarship from the Carmelites, gathered together for the first ever Scholarship Student Retreat.

While some students live with their families in Dili, or the Carmelite communities in Hera or Fatuhada, several past students travelled from their rural villages to participate in the retreat.

The day was facilitated by Br Agostinho dos Santos with the objective of providing a safe space for students to build relationships, learn new skills, enjoy some reflection time and develop a deeper sense of Carmelite spirituality.

Fr Bruce Clarke opened the retreat with a prayer, welcoming the students to the Carmelites' community house in Hera. The retreat focused on a variety of topics including freedom and responsibility, Carmelite charism, and critical thinking skills. The students also spent some time getting to know each other.

Our scholarship students are supported through a variety of programs, ranging from completing senior high school to university degrees in Public Health, Agricultural-Business, Petroleum Engineering, Tourism and Management, and Law.

The retreat finished with a group discussion where they collectively decided to establish a student group in order to maintain connections with each other and the Carmelites.



Scholarship Students Retreat.

FROM AUSTRALIA TO ZUMALAI NEW TEACHING RESOURCES ARE BRINGING JOY

Receiving new stationery and resources is always exciting, but it is extra fun when they are being received at a school with only the most basic facilities.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School and Parish in Parish in Wentworthville (NSW) collected hundreds of sharpeners for their sister school in Zumalai. These sharpeners have been packed in class stationery kits that also include pencils, textas, crayons, scissors and glue – so now teachers can just grab a box in the staffroom and head into class fully equipped for their lesson.



Not to be outdone, the Grade 3s from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in School in Coorparoo (QLD) sent letters and drawings to students at Zumalai and Raimea School. These were delivered by Michael Sullivan, chair of the Friends of Zumalai Group, Coorparoo. The Timorese children were delighted to use the new resources to write a reply back to their friends in Australia.

LAUNCHING CARMEL IMPACT IN 2020

Earlier this year we announced that The Carmelites had received Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status for their work which has a clear public benefit. This status was granted through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC), the charity sector's governing body.

We are thrilled to announce that in 2020 we will be launching 'Carmel Impact' – the public benevolent arm of 'The Carmelites of Australia and Timor-Leste'. 'Carmel Impact' will focus on our community development ministry to assist the poor and vulnerable in the communities where we work. As it will have a different purpose, it will also have a different look and feel including its own website. We will keep you informed of the changes as they take place.

The launch of 'Carmel Impact' will have a positive effect on your support as:

- your gifts to this entity will be tax deductible
- new monitoring and evaluation procedures will ensure projects demonstrate impact and outcomes
- our safeguarding policies for working with children and vulnerable people mean you can trust that Carmel Impact is operating at the highest standards

Our newsletter, Carmel Contact, will keep you informed of the good works under 'Carmel Impact' and The Carmelites.

We look forward to sharing more news with you on Carmel Impact over the coming months. If you would like to learn more please contact Nancy Mercurio on 03 9690 8822 or email nancy@carmelites.org.au.



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

No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: ____/____/____ Sign: _____

☐ I would like to order the following Prayer Cards:

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

Each card costs \$5 or buy the complete set for \$20 (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 two ways you can donate:

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

2. Contact us
Tel: 03 9690 8822
Email: fundraising@carmelites.org.au



EXPANDING OUR INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY COLLECTION THANKS TO YOU

The Carmelite Library of Spirituality was recently awarded a special grant of \$1,000 to expand its Indigenous Spirituality Collection.

This award is significant as it will help our librarian Philip build upon the current collection of Indigenous spirituality books and resources held at the Carmelite Library. This collection will be accessible to every person who comes to the Library and importantly will be safeguarded for future visitors and users.

The Carmelite Library is considered a national treasure with numerous historical, local and important collections housed under the one roof.



We are very grateful to the City of Port Phillip Equipment Fund and the Toyota Community Foundation for the granting of this award. And our heartfelt thanks to the Boon Wurrung Foundation which provided a letter of support for this most important submission.

We encourage you to visit The Carmelite Library. For more information, visit www.carmelites.org.au. Remember, donations to the Carmelite Library are tax deductible.

CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY!

Before we know it, Christmas will be here. So it's not too late to order your special Carmelite Christmas cards today. Choose from Religious themed, or Timorese themed Christmas cards.

A pack of 12 cards costs \$12 or buy 5 packs for \$50 and save \$10! (plus postage). And when you choose to buy our cards you are helping The Carmelites continue their good work in Australia and Timor-Leste.

Please send your order by email fundraising@carmelites.org.au or call on 03 9690 8822.



Purchase your Carmelite Christmas cards now.



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A: 75 Wright Street, Middle Park, 3206
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