



## My message to you of Peace, Hope and Gratitude

This year has been tumultuous, as war continues to rage in many parts of the world, and people, including families and the elderly, are struggling to make ends meet because of the rising cost of living. At times it can feel like we have lost our direction and purpose in life.

As we near Christmas and the end of the year, let's take a moment to reflect, in the knowledge that God's love is always with us, through the good and bad times.

Christmas is a special time of year, filled with love, hope, peace and goodwill for all. A time for joy, the warm embrace of love from family or friends, and coming together with hearts full of gratitude.

Christmas is also the time when we give thanks to and for each other, for what we have, and for God always being by our side, never forsaking us, reminding us of all that is good in our lives and in the world. For those who find themselves alone at this time of year, know that we are by your side.

**I look back on the year and I am deeply grateful for the love and support you have shown the Carmelites and especially those we serve in Australia and Timor-Leste. Many young people have been supported in their education, our Carmelite students continued on their formation journey, and many people have received pastoral and spiritual support.**

The end of the calendar year is often accompanied by other endings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Irene Hayes and Damien Peile for their fifteen years of service as leaders of the Carmelite Centre. They are both retiring at the end of 2024 and we wish them the very best for all the wonderful and tireless work they have undertaken in building the Carmelite Centre as a renowned centre for spiritual journeys, personal growth and community through the Carmelite tradition.

I also thank Mayra Walsh who is also finishing up with the Carmelites after seven years. Mayra has single-handedly built up the Community Development program in Timor-Leste, providing hundreds of children and young adults with the opportunity to gain an education.

We thank Irene, Damien and Mayra for their service to our communities.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Carmel Contact. May you always be blessed with peace, happiness and health.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr Bruce Clark O.Carm  
Prior Provincial



# Our Order continues to grow to serve you

These past few months have seen a flurry of activities as our Carmelite students continue to progress on their formation journey.

## Renewing their vows

In November, at the Community of Sao Elias, 20 young Carmelites renewed their vows to live Carmelite life for another year. Across two occasions Fr Bruce (Prior Provincial) celebrated the Eucharist and received the vows of the brothers. Congratulations, brothers!

## Graduating and ordained Deacon

Along with being ordained Deacon earlier this year, Br Anacleto has been approved to graduate as a Master of Theological Studies by the University of Divinity. Along with other graduands, Anacleto received a certificate and a candle acknowledging his achievement. Present at the Mass were Anacleto's brother Fr Narcizio Da Costa Villanova, Br Daryl Moresco and Fr David Hofman.

## Ordination of Priest and Deacon



Around 1,000 people attended the ordinations of Deacon Silvestre Alves O.Carm to the priesthood and Brother Agostinho Dos Santos O.Carm to the diaconate on Saturday 9 November in St Tiago Parish church, Hera. The Archbishop of Archdiocese of Dili, Cardinal Virgilio do Carmo da Silva SDB, led the ordinations, assisted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Baucau, Bishop Leandro Maria Alves. Around 60 priests and six deacons participated in the Ordination Mass along with many religious women, men and seminarians. Many family members attended as well as parishioners. There were also groups from the Carmelite parish of Zumalai where Silvestre has been ministering, as well as many from the chapel at Guisarudo where Agostinho has been ministering.

## Our newest Aussie citizen

A familiar face to so many of our Carmelite family, Fr Martinho da Costa is now an Aussie having joined more than 500 candidates from many different

countries in becoming an Australian citizen on Wednesday 30 October. Presided over by Lord Mayor Cr Adrian Schrinner, the ceremony took place at Brisbane Town Hall, packed with family and friends who came to celebrate the occasion. Frs Matthew Tonini and David Hofman were also present to witness Martinho take the Oath of Allegiance to Australia.



*"I will always be a Timorese, but I am also very excited to be part of this great nation and to be a full member of the Australian community,"* Fr Martinho said. He is now a dual citizen of Timor-Leste and Australia. Congratulations on becoming an Australian Citizen Fr Martinho!

## Celebrating 100 Years of Service

In August, Frs Laurie Timms and Paul Cahill reached an amazing milestone, each celebrating the 50th anniversaries of their priestly Ordination. That's 100 years of service and ministry between them. Originally from Leeds in the UK, Laurie grew up in Adelaide (SA) before joining the Carmelites in 1966. He has ministered in Carmelite Parishes in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, at Whitefriars College, Donvale (VIC) as well as various communities in the Diocese of Cairns (QLD).

Growing up in the Carmelite Parish of Middle Park (VIC), Paul joined the Carmelites in 1968 having completed his secondary schooling at Whitefriars College, Donvale (VIC). Following his Ordination, Paul's years of service and ministry have included serving as Prior Provincial of the Carmelites on two separate occasions, 16 years as Principal of Whitefriars College, as Parish Priest of Wentworthville (NSW) and currently as Parish Priest of Port Melbourne/Middle Park parish.

Thank you both for a long and rich ministry.



# Pope Francis' Historic Visit to Timor-Leste

On Monday 9 September, Pope Francis touched down in Timor-Leste for a 3-day visit, bringing with him messages of peace, hope and unity. It's estimated that more than half of Timor-Leste's population attended Mass conducted by Pope Francis.

Of significant importance for the Carmelites was the acceptance of Fr Roque's song – Waiting for the Holy Father – as the official song of the Pope's tour and Fr Carlito (Carmelite Provincial Delegate) in charge of organising and training more than 1,000 volunteers for the Mass.

Fr Roque is well known for his musical skills and has been involved in numerous music projects, both sacred and secular, featuring on a number of albums produced in Indonesia and Timor-Leste over the years. His song for the Pope's visit focuses on faith, hope, love and joy.

In recognition of the role the Carmelites played in welcoming Pope Francis to Timor-Leste, a ceremony was held at the Dili Diocesan Offices on 23 November. A special moment of gratitude unfolded as Cardinal Virgílio, on behalf of Pope Francis, presented commemorative gifts, in the form of Rosaries and Medallions, to the committees who played a vital role in preparing for the Pope's historic visit to Timor-Leste.

It was a heartfelt acknowledgment of the immense effort, time, and devotion invested by all those involved in this significant event. The committee members, representing various commissions for the preparation of the visit, received these gifts as a sign of the Pope's deep appreciation and as a spiritual reminder of their shared mission in serving the Church and the faithful of Timor-Leste.

**The presentation was a moment of joy and inspiration, uniting the community in gratitude and anticipation of the lasting impact of Pope Francis' visit.**

You can listen to Fr Roque's song, 'Waiting for the Holy Father' by visiting <https://www.carmelites.org.au/item/1450-carmelite-writes-official-song-for-papal-visit>



*"How wonderful that here in Timor-Leste there are so many children! Indeed, you are a young country, and we can see every corner of your land teeming with life."*

Pope Francis, Homily from Mass, Tuesday 10 September 2024

# The Lives of Young Timorese are being

When one person is educated, they go on to transform the lives of hundreds around them, creating new beginnings for families and communities.

However, when a child is trapped in poverty, they are unable to find a path to a life potentially filled with hope and opportunity. Instead, they continue the cycle, becoming the next generation barely making ends meet, reliant on subsistence farming to scrape together enough money for food.

**Education gives a child or a young adult a chance to transform not just their lives, but the lives of their families and communities.**

Since 2002, the Carmelites, with the generous support of the Carmelite family, have helped transform close to 6,000 young Timorese lives through the precious gift of an education.

Together we have given children and young adults the opportunity to learn to read and write. Importantly, we've provided them with a life-changing pathway to a career or vocation.

**Here are some of the young lives you've helped transform.**

**Sabino, Graduated with a Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering**



I am the eldest of 10. My family are subsistence farmers. We have some land where we plant potatoes, cassava and corn crops to eat. But we don't grow enough to sell at the market. My family have always been members of the Zumalai Parish, so I have got to know the Carmelite Fathers through our parish community.

I started studying my Bachelor of Petroleum degree in 2015 and have now graduated. Thank you so much for your support. As someone who has come from a poor family, I am so grateful because the Carmelites have helped me to continue my studies and keep moving forward. This has helped me think about what I'm going to do in my life. I can work out how to bring some light into my life, for me and my family.

**Ana Maria Belo, Studying Administration**



My parents are farmers who grow vegetables. If they need money, then they pick vegetables from the garden and sell them either on the side of the road or at the local market. They grow vegetables like silverbeet and spinach.

My mum and dad never went to school. Neither know how to read or write. I have been able to go to school and this year I received a scholarship from Carmel Impact to study a one-year course in Administration at Eiros Training Centre, Dili. They teach office practices, administration, typing skills, budgets, taking notes, organising files. There is lots to learn.

I want to say thank you to the people in Australia who support the Scholarship program. There are a lot of children in my family, so it is hard for my parents to support each of us. I am only able to study because I received this scholarship. It has been a big year for me, with lots of learning, but I know the people in Australia have been so generous to contribute to my life, so I've been working hard to make sure I can develop my skills and then eventually support myself.



# Transformed because of YOU

## Erica Nunes Soares, Studying Bachelor of Health (Midwifery)



Since I was young, I have been living with the Carmelite Nuns in Maubara. There are over 60 children who live at the orphanage. I had a good life growing up at the orphanage. The Carmelite Sisters looked after everything for us. There was a schedule we followed. We did everything together. It was very structured. I had lots of friends and kids to play with and go to school with.

My favourite subject at school was biology. I like learning about the human body and knowing about my own body. When I'm sick, I want to know what is happening. Now I'm studying midwifery because I want to be able to help women give birth and I also want to be able to teach others to do it.

My dream is to become a really good midwife who works hard and is ready to help. I want to be able to give back to the people who helped me, like the Carmelite Sisters and Brothers. I'd like to say a special thank you and to say I am so grateful to the donors who are supporting me. At a difficult time for me, you have made things easier. I can't repay your kindness and your generosity, but I will work hard to be successful with my studies.

## Celestino, Studying Formation and Carmelite Charism

My parents are both farmers. They grow coffee beans and wheat to make flour. I'm the youngest of six siblings. I went to primary and junior high school at the local school in our village. I then moved to Becora, Dili, to attend senior high school. I would wake up early in the morning and do jobs around the house, sweeping floors and helping to make breakfast. After school I would collect wood for the fire.



I first heard about the Carmelites when some Seminarians came to our Parish for their pastoral work experience. It was because of them I knew I wanted to follow this path. Every year there would be at least one Carmelite student who came to our parish. I didn't really know much about the Carmelites' charism, but I saw how the seminarians behaved and how friendly they were.

I heard the Carmelites were accepting new registrations, so I submitted mine. I want to join the Carmelites because after going to Mass a lot I have heard God's voice speak to me and call me to become a Priest. I want to deepen my faith. Since I've been coming to Hera and getting to know more about the Carmelites, I've learnt how to pray together in a group and how to work together in the community. My dream is to become a Priest and to work with God's people.

## Let's turn a child's despair into Hope

With Timor-Leste continuing to be the poorest country in our region, education is just a mere dream and out of reach for many children as families are unable to afford to send their children to school. Yet education is the key to transforming young people's lives. You can help make an impact and transform young lives with a Gift of Hope. Every gift we receive will support a child in kindergarten or school, a young adult in high-school, university or college or a Carmelite student progress on their formation journey. Please show your support and help transform a child's life today. Give a Gift of Hope. Visit [carmelimpact.org.au/Gift-Of-Hope](http://carmelimpact.org.au/Gift-Of-Hope) or email [together@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:together@carmelimpact.org.au)

# The heart of the Carmelites - Thanking & Recognising Our Carmelite Family

Our Carmelite family are the heart of our Ministries. It is through their generosity that we are able to continue to serve communities in need in Australia and Timor-Leste.

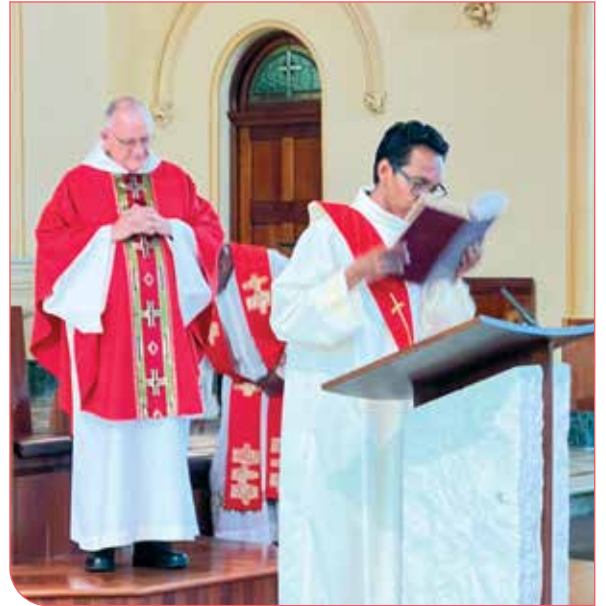
Each year we acknowledge with the deepest of gratitude the impact our Carmelite family makes through their contributions to our work. On Friday 22 November, around 30 Carmelite family members and their guests attended our annual Thank You event.

Beginning with a Mass at 10.30am, this was then followed by presentations from Fr Bruce Clark, Prior Provincial, who shared the latest updates about the Carmelites and the Carmelite students, Mayra Walsh, Community Development Officer, who talked about the life-changing difference education is having on many young Timorese and finally, students from Whitefriars College who shared their insights and experiences of their travels in Timor-Leste.

A number of donors were recognised for their loyal giving with the presentation of our Donor Loyalty Certificate and Pin. And we also took the opportunity to thank and farewell Mayra for all that she has done to strengthen Carmel Impact. Mayra has been a lynchpin in developing education-based, youth leadership and engagement programs, creating partnerships and encouraging students to pursue education to transform their lives, in her time with the Carmelites. She will be missed but we wish her all the very best in her new role with the Federal Government.

Once the presentations were complete, this was then followed by a light lunch providing us with an opportunity to get to know those who attended.

We express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your faith and support of the work we do. And look forward to continuing to keep you informed and updated on the impact your support is making to the people and communities we serve.





## Get YOUR copy of our Carmel Impact Annual Report

Our latest Carmel Impact Annual Report is jam-packed with stories demonstrating the impact you have made for the people and communities we serve.

You'll read how you and every member of our Carmelite family are helping to transform young lives through the precious gift of an education – from children as young as 4 to young adults in tertiary education. How you're helping our Carmelite students continue their formation journey to one day serve you. And how you're helping the Carmelites continue to provide pastoral support and practical care to people and communities in need.

To receive your copy visit [www.carmelimpact.org.au/latest-news/newsletters-publications](http://www.carmelimpact.org.au/latest-news/newsletters-publications). You can also call our Fundraising team on 03 9690 8822 or email [together@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:together@carmelimpact.org.au) for a printed copy.

## A Prayer Card for every occasion

Our exclusive range of Prayer Cards is designed to provide your loved ones with comfort, hope and support.

When you send any one of our Cards you are giving them a gift of prayer, letting them know you are thinking of them and that they will be prayed for by the Carmelites during Prayers and Masses. You can order one or as many Prayer Cards from across our range as you like. Simply complete and return the form in this newsletter.

**YES! I will help transform lives and build communities.**

Please accept my one-off gift of:

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

OR I wish to make a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Please deduct my credit card below or send me information on other ways to donate monthly.*

I would like to donate by:

Cheque / Money Order (payable to Carmel Impact Ltd)

OR Please debit my:  MasterCard  Visa

No. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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)  
Please add \$7.50 for Postage & Handling.*

**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

**Complete and return this form to:**

Carmel Impact  
Fundraising Development Ministry  
PO Box 5295, Middle Park, Vic, 3206

**2. Donate securely online**  
[carmelimpact.org.au/gift-of-hope](http://carmelimpact.org.au/gift-of-hope)

**3. Contact us**

**T:** 03 9690 8822

**E:** [together@carmelimpact.org.au](mailto:together@carmelimpact.org.au)

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CC24-NEWS

# Help Create a Future of Possibilities Leave a Lasting Legacy and make a Greater Impact

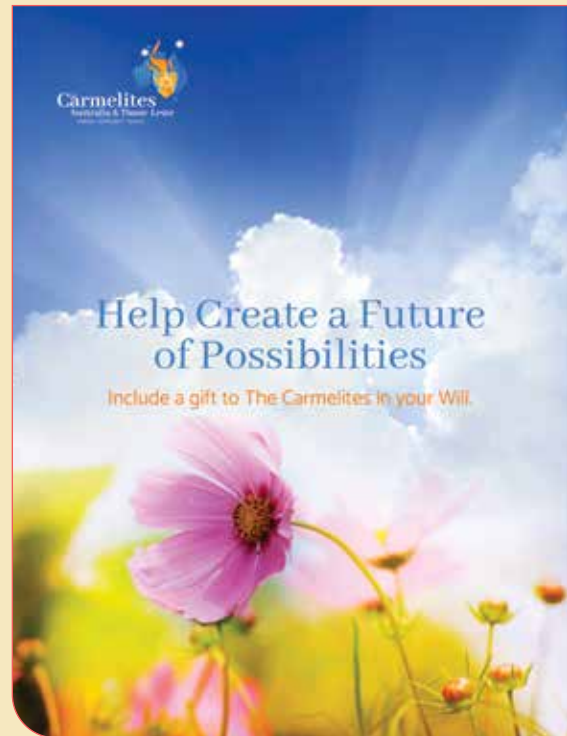
Writing a Will is one of the most important activities you will undertake during your lifetime. When you make a valid Will and keep it up to date, you ensure that your loved ones are provided for, and that your estate is divided according to your wishes. When making your Will, you also have the opportunity to include gifts to charitable causes that are close to your heart.

By remembering The Carmelites in your Will your legacy can create a future of possibilities, hope and new opportunities.

Your gift has the power to create a future of possibilities for the people and communities we serve. It will help our Carmelite students continue their formation journey and prepare them to serve communities in Australia and Timor-Leste.

Your legacy gift will also help more young Timorese pursue an education giving them a chance to transform not only their lives, but also the lives of their families and communities. And your gift will help us expand our community, spiritual and pastoral care programs, ensuring we continue to be here for all who need us in their time of need.

To get a free copy of our Gifts in Will booklet or to learn more, please contact the Fundraising Development Ministry on 03 9690 8822 or email [philanthropy@carmelites.org.au](mailto:philanthropy@carmelites.org.au)



## We're here to help you

The Fundraising Development Ministry has been a staple of the Australian Carmelite Province for many years now. Focused on building relationships with donors, supporters and the broader community, the Fundraising Development Ministry is here to share with you and our Carmelite family the difference your donations make to the people and communities we serve, including the education of our Carmelite students and the young people of Timor-Leste.

Please call (03) 9690 8822 or email [carmelcare@carmelites.org.au](mailto:carmelcare@carmelites.org.au) to learn more or discuss the different ways you can support our ministries and missions.



**The Carmelites**  
Australia & Timor-Leste  
PRAYER - COMMUNITY - SERVICE

