



Message from the Prior Provincial

As I write this today we are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared to the three children 109 years ago. Our Lady's message to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco was to pray the Rosary, to seek peace and to turn our hearts towards God.

This message of Mary in the time of the First World War is still relevant and meaningful today. We know only too well about the acts of war that are going on around the world, some of which get a lot of attention whilst others, unfortunately, are overlooked or unseen.

In all of these acts of war, violence and terrorism, small or large, people are dying, being injured, being rendered homeless or even refugees from their own countries. People are mourning loved ones, children are being made orphans, and parents are burying their children.

In the past, we hoped that our elected leaders would uphold and respect the rights and dignity of every person, their own citizens or not. Yet today we seem to be lacking that kind of leadership. We have leaders saying that they can make peace by bombing people until they are totally obliterated!

Pope Leo stands out: speaking for peace, for respect for human dignity and the rights of every person regardless of colour, race or gender. He urges us to speak to each other, to listen to each other, to seek reconciliation with each other, to respect each other.

Whether we are discussing issues abroad or at home we need to take Mary's message to the children to heart. We need to pray especially that we seek peace with each other – to see and respect each person regardless of our differences. This seems just as important locally as it does nationally and internationally.

Turning our hearts towards God doesn't mean turning our backs on others but rather challenges us to see more clearly each sister and brother. Opening our hearts to God means opening our hearts more to each other.

This is the message of the Gospel, not only the message of Mary to the children in Fatima. It is still the message today that we need to hear and heed. As Carmelites we talk about contemplation as the grace given to be able to see others as God sees us. Loved, precious, and cherished by God who is Father to all.

This month our Carmelite Brother Antonio Olvaio Exposto from Timor-Leste has just returned to live in our Carmelite community in Fatima (Portugal) where he will minister to the pilgrims and guests coming to visit the shrine. On this feast of Our Lady of Fatima, he is joining the thousands in prayer there and I am certain he will be praying for all of us, friends and members of the Carmelite Family of Australia and Timor-Leste.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!
Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Yours in Carmel,

Fr Bruce Clark O.Carm
Prior Provincial



Growing our Carmelite Order for the world

It is with great joy we report our Order continues to grow with more young men commencing, progressing and completing their Formation journey:

Exploration & Consideration – Before Profession

In December, the Carmelites accepted five new pre-novices. Over the past twelve months, they had been meeting monthly with members of the Carmelite Formation Team to explore their vocation. During Evening Prayer with the community, they made their formal request to Fr Bruce who gave permission for each to join the program. This year will be a time of more intensive exploration of the Carmelite charism of prayer, community and service.

At the same time, the Carmelites also welcomed 10 new novices in Timor-Leste. Fr Bruce Clark led the celebration and presented a habit to each of them.



During the ceremony the novices undertook to continue their journey of learning to live according to the Carmelite charism of prayer, community and service. The novitiate year is a special year focused on spiritual development, learning more about the Carmelites and themselves, connecting with the God who dwells within and making room for God in their hearts. After completing their Novitiate the novice may request, and be invited, to make their Simple Profession.

Initial Formation – Simple Profession

A total of twelve simply professed brothers made their annual renewal of their vows to continue living the Carmelite way of life for another year. This renewal marks another step in their ongoing formation as they continue to grow in the Carmelite vocation of prayer, community and service.

A Lifetime Commitment – Solemn Profession

On 20 November, relatives, Carmelites and religious figures gathered to celebrate the Solemn Vows (life-long commitment) of six brothers. In a ceremony the evening before the Professions, their families brought the brothers, in traditional dress, to the front door of the community and formally entrusted them to the Carmelites for the rest of their lives. The brothers were welcomed and received by Fr Bruce and other members of the community at Hera. During the mass, each brother was asked about his willingness to continue the Carmelite journey of transformation for the rest of his life. Each then made his Solemn Vows as a Carmelite.



A Call to the Priesthood – Ordination

Many, but not all, Carmelites accept the further call to minister as a priest. Some of these stories are included on the next page as well!

The Carmelites of Australia and Timor-Leste offer their prayers, congratulations and warmest blessings to all brothers as they progress on their Carmelite journey in the spirit of Mary, Mother of Carmel, and the Prophet Elijah.

Our thanks and prayers also go to our benefactors who support the important work of formation and development of Carmelites in Timor-Leste, but for the world.

A time of Celebrations and Ordinations

It takes at least twelve years for a young man to complete their formation as a Carmelite priest, and to go out into the world to serve. That significant achievement and generous commitment is truly cause for celebration!

Last November more than 50 Carmelite, Diocesan, religious, government and community dignitaries, along with thousands of relatives, village leaders and community members celebrated the Ordination of Fr Agostinho Dos Santos, O.Carm over two days in Emera, witnessing his Ordination and Mass of Thanksgiving.



The long procession began some distance with Bishop Leandro Alves (Bishop of Bacau), Fr Bruce Clark and Fr Agostinho in traditional dress and a huge crowd of people following, including Agostinho's parents. There were several welcome ceremonies by leaders along the way. The procession was met by Cardinal Virgilio Do Carmo Da Silva (Archbishop of Dili) upon arrival at the Parish. A choir of more than 70 led the 4-hour ceremony in song.

Following the Mass there was a huge feast for all present as well as dancing and music well into the night. The next day, almost as many gathered again as Fr Agostinho celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with traditional cultural welcomes, gifts of flowers, fruit, bread, wine, a chicken and a goat which were brought in procession to the altar as offerings from local parishioners. A true celebration of the joy the people felt at having one of their own ordained to the priesthood.



Fr Anacleto celebrates Mass in his hometown

Since being ordained in Melbourne in May 2025, Fr Anacleto celebrated Mass in Ossu (his hometown), attended by Carmelites, religious, family members, friends and parishioners.

The celebration commenced with a traditional welcome ceremony at the entrance to the Church property. Clothed in cultural dress, Fr Anacleto was presented with traditional symbols including a hat, bag, cane and traditional coloured cloths (tais). Students from the parish primary school then began a traditional dance of welcome as the procession moved towards the Church. A marching band, also from the school, accompanied the procession.

Present were Frs Bruce Clark, David Hofman, Wayne Stanhope, Narcizio Da Costa Vilanova (Anacleto's brother), Almeida Da Costa (Anacleto's uncle) and Aniceto Maia Da Costa as well as Solemnly and Simply Professed Carmelites, novices and pre-novices, Carmelite sisters and diocesan priests including the parish priest.



During an emotional address at the end of the Mass, Fr Anacleto gave thanks to his parents (both deceased), family members and the Carmelite Sisters who looked after Narcizio and himself as children in the orphanage at Maubara. He also thanked the local people for their warm welcome and their hard work preparing for the Mass and the feast.

The Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste gratefully acknowledge our Carmelite brothers in the Pure Heart of Mary Province (Chicago), the British and Irish Provinces and the Commissariat of Portugal, and our benefactors and friends who support the formation of young Timorese Carmelites. Obrigadu barak!

The gift that leads to brighter futures

It is well known education opens doors, providing people with crucial skills and abilities, such as learning how to read, write, understand and solve problems. For young people in Timor-Leste, education not only opens doors – it enables them to transform their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

Carmel Impact provides young Timorese with the opportunity to receive the precious gift of an education. We do this through:

Our Carmelite Kindergarten

run by the Carmelite Sisters where early learning begins for children aged 3 to 5. Over 30 youngsters are in our Kindergarten.

Our three Carmelite Primary & Junior High Schools

with more than 660 children currently enrolled learning language, history, mathematics, geography and more

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in Zumalai
- St Francis Xavier Primary School in Raimea
- Our Lady of Fatima Primary School in Beco

Titus Brandsma Boarding House

providing 33 boys from remote villages a home-like environment and where they're able to go to school.

Saint Magdalene de' Pazzi Girls' Dormitory

where currently 10 girls live in a safe and supportive environment with the chance to go to school. Later this year, the Boarding House will house 40 girls.

Community Scholarships

giving 28 young adults financial support to undertake tertiary education (college or university), and pursue a career or vocation.

La Bruna Scholarships

enabling Carmelite brothers and sisters to study vocational education programs to support their future ministry activities.

Carmel Impact is 100% funded by our Carmelite family

a family who believes in the transformative power of education. Your tax-deductible donations are ensuring children and young adults are able to realise their potential, their dreams, and their hopes for a better and brighter future.



The Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

PRAYER • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

A Gift from a Bountiful Heart

When Ruth Considine died last May at the grand age of 96, she added yet another remarkable moment to an already memorable life. The Carmelites were deeply humbled to learn that, alongside providing for her large family, Ruth also made a generous gift to the Carmelites in her Will.

And what a large family it was. Ruth and her late husband Des had always hoped for a big family, and they succeeded beyond measure: six children (five girls and one boy), 18 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren. **That's 61 descendants and counting...**

Ruth's deep Catholic faith and strong connection to the Carmelites sustained her throughout her life. Ruth and Des were parishioners at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Hilton parish and close friends of the late Fr Jerome Watt, OCarm. Ruth was also a faithful supporter, donating regularly to the Carmelites and Carmel Impact from 2004.

Born in Perth in 1929 during the Great Depression, Ruth was the eldest child of Thomas and Ruth Brennan's two children. The family moved to Kalgoorlie so her father could find work. Ruth attended Catholic schools in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and briefly the Sacred Heart Convent in Highgate.

A trailblazer, Ruth became the first woman to attend the Kalgoorlie School of Mines, thus making her one of the first women to enter the Western Australian mining industry. She studied industrial chemistry, a path chosen by her father, and was the only woman among 200 male students. Ruth's father hoped that she would sit at the back of the class and have limited interaction with the other students, however one student dared to disobey these strict rules, that was Des Considine. They married in 1950.

Ruth and Des settled in Perth in the 1950s, welcoming their first three children, followed by another three after moving to Narrogin. In the 1960s the family relocated to East Fremantle, there Ruth expertly managed a busy household while Des was often away working for months.

In the 1970s the family embarked on an extraordinary two year camper van journey through Europe, imagine it, six children and their parents. It was an unforgettable experience for the children, no doubt more than a huge 'unforgettable' challenge for their remarkable mother Ruth. On return she vowed never to go camping again!

After Des's death 22 years ago, Ruth found joy in frequent visits from her ever growing family. Her home was always full of visitors, her quilting and embroidery groups met there, and she hosted legendary Friday night drinks.

It was said at her funeral that, 'a spark of "Nanna Ruth" lives on in every generation'. We believe so does Ruth's bountiful heart as reflected in her generous gift to support the Carmelites' work in Australia and Timor Leste.

One way we can ensure our own 'spark and bountiful heart' live on is to consider making a Gift in our Wills. You are very welcome to contact The Carmelites Philanthropy Coordinator, Helen Cridland, on 03 9690 8822 or by email philanthropy@carmelites.org.au to learn more.



Pictured: Ruth with her children - Peter, Robyn, Marisa, Helen, Kathryn and Lisa (sitting)

From Uncertainty to Prayer, Community & Service - this is Br Frangelino's Carmelite Journey

Br Frangelino José Ximenes' path to becoming a Carmelite is a story shaped by hardship, faith, and a persistent inner call. From an early age, the Church was central to his life. *"Since I was very young, I have always loved the Church,"* he says. As an acolyte and choir member, he was drawn to the priesthood, even "playing church" with friends.

Br Frangelino was born in Soibada, Timor-Leste, in 1986. Sadly, he lost his father during the conflict with Indonesia when he was just a one-year-old. Raised by his mother, who was a farmer, he recalls a childhood grounded in simplicity and resilience.

Yet Br Frangelino's journey was not so simple or straightforward. Moving to Dili for school, he faced uncertainty, especially as his mother hoped he would marry. *"This affected my thinking, and I felt uncertain about my path,"* he admits. Though he enrolled in further studies with thoughts of a different future, *"deep in my heart, I still had a strong desire to become a priest."*



A turning point came unexpectedly when his cousin encouraged him to apply to the Carmelite Order, even though he had "never heard about" the Carmelites before. Passing the entrance exam with strong results, he saw it as providential: *"For me, this was a clear sign... I believe God guided my path."*

Entering the Carmelite community meant adapting to discipline, prayer, and study. *"Before joining formation, my lifestyle was very different... I did not manage my time well,"* he reflects. *"However, entering the formation house became a turning point for me. Today, I can see a big difference in who I am."*

Central to his vocation is Carmelite spirituality of 'prayer, fraternity, and service.' He says this way of life *"really reflects who I am. I feel at home in a community that values simplicity, equality, and mutual respect."*



Despite earlier resistance, his family now fully supports him. Having made his Solemn Vows, Br Frangelino is nearing the completion of his theological studies and preparing for ministry. Through it all, his conviction has remained steady. *"Since I was young, I have always believed this is my calling: to serve those in need and guide the community to grow in their faith. I want to help people develop a deeper understanding of Mary, the Mother of God, so they can strengthen their faith and relationship with God. I am a servant of the Lord - to guide people to find light and meaning in their lives."*



We wish Br Frangelino the very best and look forward to seeing him serving community. If you would like to support our Carmelite students, please visit bit.ly/faith-for-the-world to donate or call the Fundraising Development Ministry on 03 9690 8822 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

A special message from Br Frangelino

To all young people, remember that God is love and salvation. God does not come only for the perfect or the holy. He comes especially for those who feel lost.

If you feel lost, remember you are a child of God. There is always forgiveness, there is always a way to return, and there is always a light in your life. You just need to choose it.

To young people who feel called to religious life, do not be afraid. If you feel something in your heart drawing you closer to God, take time to listen to that call. Stay close to the Church, speak with priests, nuns, or others who are already living this life, and seek their guidance. Most importantly, pray every day and ask God to guide your path.

In today's world, religious life is something unique and rare. If you truly feel the call, respond to it with courage and trust in God.

This life is full of meaning, mission, and hope.



Please support the Carmelite Ministries and work in Australia & Timor-Leste.

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.

OR I would like to make my gift by:

Credit Card (Visa / Mastercard only)

No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____ CVV: _____

OR Cheque / Money Order (payable to Carmelite Fathers)

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	_____		

Please add for Postage & Handling:

• 1-6 cards: \$3.00 • 6+ cards: \$11.00

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:

Carmelite Fathers

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

2. Donate securely online

bit.ly/faith-for-the-world

3. Contact us

T: 03 9690 8822

E: fundraising@carmelites.org.au

THEO26-NEWS

Carmelite Fathers Incorporated (Vic) ABN 98 004 769 528

Please note gifts to the Carmelite Fathers are not tax-deductible.

65th Anniversary of Whitefriars College, Donvale

February 14, 1961

It was still early in the day but the countryside had been exposed to the hot sun of a February morning for three hours. Past a sign which proclaimed the name of a builder, and down a drive which had been smoothed out in previous months by trucks with concrete, mobile cranes and carpenters' cars came a small boy in a grey uniform and a dark brown cap carrying a bag which seemed far too large for him.

The first pupil had arrived at Whitefriars College, preceding by some thirty minutes the bus load of slightly apprehensive, slightly exerted, eleven and twelve-year-old boys who were to be his companions in the first year of the College's history. The small boy looked at the T-shaped building and noticed the activities of thirty men engaged in various occupations of the building trade. The building, except for its classroom wing, was still far from completion and even in the "completed" section a floor-sander's machine was raising a thick fine dust and drowning out any remarks that were not shouted.

Two priests changed quickly from overalls to brown habits to welcome the boy; and when the school bus had brought his companions there were also two Brothers aboard. These four Carmelites were the College's initial staff, their other duties of each day spoiling what might otherwise appear as the perfect teacher-pupil ratio.

The new boy and thirty-two other new boys sat in new desks, wrote in new books, and started to form the spirit of a completely new school. Their number was to grow to thirty-seven at the beginning of the following year, and it was hoped that within five years the two-hundred mark would be passed.

So much happened on that first day - television cameras, reporters, instructions about changing into slippers and "old" clothes on arrival each morning, distribution of books, news that the bus would continue to run to and from the College each day, and the announcement that the subjects to be taught during the first year would be Religion,



English, Latin, History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, General Science, Geography, Art and Physical Education, with relaxation provided by sport and singing.

The new boy might have been excused for appearing somewhat bewildered but he and his companions were to give the staff a pleasant surprise by the rapidity with which they settled down and began quite obviously to enjoy their role of pioneer pupils.

As the new boy came down the drive, ever so slowly, on that hot morning of February 14, 1961, he was probably not speculating on the significance of his arrival. Nor were those priests and Brothers who were to teach him. There were too many pressing practical problems to be solved. But perhaps from the distance of many years some historian would be tempted to become dramatic or lyrical. In which case he would do well to remember the small boy. For the beginning of Whitefriars College was a humble one.

This article was written by Fr Frank Shortis O.Carm, the first principal of Whitefriars, in the original history of the College published in 1975. The entire Carmelite community joins with the College to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the College this year. We pay tribute to all of the supporters, staff and Carmelites who have given generously of themselves in this ministry. We also celebrate and acknowledge Fr Matthew McPhee (aged 94) who was there on that very first day!

Carmel Contact is produced to keep the broader Carmelite family of Australia and Timor-Leste in touch with what has been happening with our friars, parishes and ministries.



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

