



# The Vine

Lay Carmelite Newsletter for Australia & New Zealand

Volume 28 Issue 1 March 2017\*



We pray for God's peace for ourselves,  
our family, our nation and our world.

# Editorial

Peter White, TOC



Greetings to you and “the Peace of the Lord be with you”. In a world where we experience turmoil in our personal life, our family relationships, our communities, and our nation and around the world, we share the yearning for peace.

The symbol of peace on our front cover is the dove and the olive branch. They first appeared together in the biblical story of Noah’s Ark. But how did this symbolize peace? If you’d been on that Ark for nearly a year, and then saw the dove return with an olive branch, would “peace” be the best way to describe your response? More likely, such a sight would trigger joy, hope, and gratitude – emotions that would then lead to a sense of being at peace.

In this Issue of The Vine, we focus on the triggers of hope, joy and gratitude of being a Lay Carmelite that may help you in your search for peace.

Fr Paul Gurr, OCarm encourages us “Do Not Be Afraid”. An article from an American Carmelite, Fr Ernest Larkin OCarm, discusses “silence and contemplation”. Pope Francis has a message of peace.

What does it mean to be a Lay Carmelite? We share the many responses. I hope you too will feel a sense of hope, joy and gratitude. Also, Keith Belton tells us the story of the Adelaide Community.

We recall those who have been received, professed and finally professed as Lay Carmelites in 2016. In each of those communities, there has been great celebration and we congratulate those people and share in their joy.

Finally, as is always the case, there are those who ask for our prayers. Please keep these people, their family and friends and the wider Carmelite family in your prayers and intercessions at your Community Meetings.

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\* NOTE: There was no issue of The Vine in December 2016 (Volume 27 Issue 4)



**The Carmelites**  
Australia and East Timor  
*community • prayer • action*

The Vine is a quarterly publication of the Lay Carmelite Council.

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# From Our Provincial Delegate

Fr Paul Gurr, OCarm

“Do not be afraid!

Scripture scholars who delight in this sort of thing tell us that there are 145 texts in the Bible where those exact words are used - “Do not be afraid!” There are another 220 verses that convey the same thought, making 365 references all together. That’s one reminder for every day of the year.

The very first word spoken by mankind [Adam] was “I was afraid, so I hid from you”. Each time, especially in the Old Testament, God speaks to humankind through an angel or a prophet; it begins with the words, “Do not be afraid”. Most wonderfully, the angel Gabriel assures Mary that she should not be afraid.

Next time you are praying the Divine Office, note, in the psalms especially how often you read things like, “Whom shall I fear?” or “I will not be shaken” or “I will fear no evil” or “Do not fear when others grow rich”.

Fear seems to be a primary emotion that can colour all our subsequent actions, words and responses. It stops us from being creative. Fear interrupts our relationships with other people. Fear is the dominant emotion behind all racism and bigotry and prejudice. Fear of the other can paralyse our responses. It can, of course, also paralyse our response to God who “has first loved us” [1 Jn 4:19].

The spectre of a God who will demand perfection and correctness in all things, ever ready to point out what is wrong, what deviates from the laws, can

still paralyse us on our journey towards the “mountain which is Christ”. Like Elijah, we too often fall down under the pressure of fear and say, “It’s no use. I can’t go on”.

So, RISE UP all CARMELITES.

We will not despair of hope “though ten thousand fall at my side” [Psalm 90]. Even though so many in the media, so many politicians, or even colleagues or other parishioners or work mates all peddle fear to the point of exclusion, we, with contemplative souls, will not fear because we know that the world has been in God’s creative hands for unknown eons and that we are moving towards a new heaven and a new earth where all will be transformed into Christ.

“We will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; nor the plague that prowls in the darkness; not the scourge that lays waste at noon” [Psalm 90].

Arrangements for the FORMATION TEAM for the Lay Carmelites of Australia and New Zealand [L.C.C.] have been finalised. Sue Stuckey, Marion Haigh and Maria Goral have graciously agreed to join me on the team. Maria has agreed to be the person who deals with Application Forms, Certificates and so on; so you might like to keep her email address handy [maria.goral@bigpond.com](mailto:maria.goral@bigpond.com) so that in future you will be able to communicate directly with her about those things. Marion, Sue and I will deal with other aspects of Formation.



## Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers and in the intentions of your Community

Toowoomba Community: Clare Bowdler (health issues)

Adelaide Community: Maureen Ellis (died recently), David Green (health issues)

Rockhampton Community: Daphne Smith’s son (personal issues), June Hornung (rearing grandchildren and it is really beyond her health to do so), Colleen Graham’s son (recovering from an accident)

Gold Coast Community: Zelda Bickerstaff (died recently), Norm Harding (health issues)

Coorparoo Community: Denise Hocken Venning (health issues), Maggie Hobbs (health issues)

# From Our Moderator

Chris Wade, TOC



Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel.

A couple of weeks ago I found myself on the edge of the Australian desert country, just outside Broken Hill in New South Wales. I was there with a small group of people, soon after sun up. We were on a little rise, in the company of a couple of wallabies. The light came clear and bright from the east, still throwing shadows. A surprising touch of deep green coloured the tiny, dry shrubs as far as the eye could see. (There's been rain! Hallelujah!) The breeze was gentle and coolly refreshing. Everyone in that group of strangers spoke softly, if at all, and they moved around slowly. It seemed as if every one of us was touched by the silent stillness and the peace of that place.

I wonder if there are places in your life where you can almost breathe and almost touch, peace.

Even more, I wonder if there are people in your communities, your families or elsewhere, who exude that kind of peacefulness. As I have moved around our countries, I have met very many Lay Carmelites who personify a peaceful approach in the way they interact with the world. They are the ones who remain unflappable, the ones who refuse to buy into negativity. Most often, they are the quiet ones who remain in the background.

They personify the approach of Mary, our mother and sister in Carmel, as she is portrayed in scripture. They are people of wisdom who ponder things in their hearts. Listen to them. They are our Prophets of Peace.

May the heart of Mary our Mother and Sister continue to be reborn in us.

## Looking Forward to 2017

Message of Peace from Pope Francis



Mary is the Queen of Peace. At the birth of her Son, the angels gave glory to God and wished peace on earth to men and women of good will (cf. Luke 2:14). Let us pray for her guidance. "All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers."

In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. "Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace". *Pope Francis, from the Vatican, 8 December 2016*

### Special Birthdays January – March 2017

Ian Reynolds – 9 January  
Monica Clark – 3 February and Colleen Graham – 16 February  
Peter Venning – 2 March

### Special Anniversaries of Profession January – March 2017

27 January: Clare Bowdler (Toowoomba) - 60 years Finally Professed

# Being a Lay Carmelite

Peter White, TOC

*I recall at various stages of being received into and then being first and finally professed, we are asked to reflect on our journey in Carmel. I have heard many wonderful stories and thought it would be an enriching experience to collect some of these stories for us to share. I am most grateful for those who have accepted my invitation.*



My name is **Andrea Kleeven** (Melbourne Community). I am 45 years of age. My father Andre was a migrant from Holland in the 1950's. He joined the Carmelite Monastery in the early 1960's but became very ill with kidney problems and had to take sick leave. During this period, he met mum and got married instead. They adopted me and I grew up in the Gippsland area. My father died when I was 16 years old. Dad had a great devotion to the Brown Scapular and had us enrolled at an early age.

When dad was dying we were all gathered around his bedside and, without being called, a priest arrived at our place unannounced and gave dad the Last Rites, which moved us, and the priest as well. Because of dad's example and devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Brown Scapular, they have been a very important part of my life.

My name is **Carol Augustus** (Melbourne Community). I am married with two sons and a 15 year-old grandson and I have just celebrated my 50th birthday.



I have always had a great devotion to Our Lady through the Rosary and, through the Lay Carmelites I have also come to love Jesus and the Eucharist more.



My name is **Maureen Flanagan** (Central Coast Community) and I have been a member of the Central Coast Lay Carmelite Community for 22 wonderful years. Looking back I had always had a yearning for a deeper relationship with Jesus. I found this in the 70's through my relationship with the Carmelite Friars, Wentworthville and my involvement there in a Charismatic Renewal Group. My contemplative heart was awakened, but it was not until moving to the Central Coast in the late 80's that my husband and I found there a Lay Carmelite Community (there was not a Lay Carmelite Community in Wentworthville at that time).

We joined immediately and marveled, how through many twists and turns, God had been guiding us. Carmel is the light that daily lights my way to the Holy Mount of Carmel. I thank God for my vocation.

My being a Carmelite means to follow Mary, Mother of Jesus. She is my companion as I walk my path through life. She shows me she is my friend. I am never alone; she is my hope to eternal life. **Judith Greer** (Perth Community)

**Toto Olita** (Perth Community) writes "It is a daily journey where we offer our entire being to God and allow Him to direct our paths. Living in communion with God has enabled me to listen to the voice of those afflicted by suffering and reach out to them with unconditional love."

My being a Carmelite means being transformed by God into a vessel that pours his love into any situation and onto every person. It can be very difficult at times but "The Visitation" keeps me centered on service to others. Mary did not think of herself and her pregnancy; instead went straight away to assist her cousin Elizabeth. I must always love with the hearts of Mary and Jesus." **Antonietta Skelton** (Perth Community)

# Being a Lay Carmelite

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continued



My name is **Ron Taliana** (Wollongong Community). My journey started as one seeking candidacy with the Third Order of St Francis back in 2012 in Newton, North Carolina. I proceeded through 18 months formation to be accepted as a candidate. Circumstances then demanded that I should return to my home in Sydney after nearly 12 years living in the USA. I was given documentation to transfer and join a Franciscan group in Waverley, Sydney, but after 18 months, I began to feel that maybe I was not really meant to continue. So I started to look at the Ignatians, Benedictines, Dominicans and the Carmelites.

Fr Paul Gurr introduced me to the Wentworthville Community and later the Wollongong Community. I had spent thirty-five years of saying the Office from the Breviary, the Rosary and other prayers alone but with the small Wollongong Community, the Light of Carmel had turned on for me. I was accepted into the Carmelites 17 September 2016 at Wollongong and then asked if I would also accept the position of Lay Carmelite Council Treasurer. My initial reaction was to decline but recalled from my excellent formation with Sue Stuckey that to be Carmelite is to serve. After some consideration I recalled that I have asked in my prayers to do something special for Our Lord and do God's work. So I accepted. I have, at last, found a place where I can be actively formed and happy to follow my life long model Our Lady that was instilled in me in my early Marist education.

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My name is **Anne Baumber** (Wollongong Community). In 2008 I made my First Profession at the Benedictine Abbey in Jamberoo, NSW. The chapel at the Abbey is very beautiful and Fr Paul said a very lovely mass. When I made my commitment I felt something deep inside me change. I see that moment of making my commitment as an outward sign of inward grace, just like a sacrament. I can feel it again as I write this. For another three years I studied and learned about Carmel. I was very unsure that I was good enough to make the Final Profession; I was reassured by Fr. Paul and Sue Stuckey that they thought I was. I always remember that Fr Paul said about my concerns, "It doesn't matter where you have been, it is where you are going that counts." He was so right. My life in Carmel has given me much happiness and many friends. I often think I am falling by the wayside, but I then immerse myself in reading and prayer and I continue my journey in Carmel.

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**Marianne, Felicity and Paul Enever** live in Brisbane and are part of the Coorparoo Community. Paul has briefly



outlined the story of their journey to Carmel. In recent years I've had a strong desire to become more involved in the church. Marianne and I both volunteered for service within our parish as readers and Eucharistic ministers, but I felt there was something missing. We wanted to find a community that we could participate in together, which focused on prayer – that sought the presence of God. After tasting the spirituality of Carmel with the Coorparoo community, this felt right for us. I had heard about the local Carmelite communities from the spiritual director at the Brisbane seminary, Fr Paul Chandler OCarm, who recommended visiting the Coorparoo community.

Marianne and I chose to visit the Coorparoo community with our young daughter, Felicity. We were delighted with the warm welcome that the community extended to us, and are grateful that we could participate in Carmel as a young family. Marianne and I were received into the Carmelite community on 20 November 2016, and Felicity was also welcomed into the community with the gift of a beautiful Brown Scapular medal. Thank you, Fr Wayne and the Coorparoo Community, for your kind welcome and we hope to learn and contribute more as we journey together with you in Carmel.

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*I hope to include more stories (with your input) in future Issues of The Vine. If you would like to contribute your individual or Community stories or thoughts, I would very much welcome receiving your story. Please send to [cavendish317@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cavendish317@optusnet.com.au) (and include a photo if you can).*

# Books for Timor-Leste

Angela Zakarias, TOC

Very best wishes from The Lay Carmelite Council to Fr Bruce and all Staff and Students as we journey through this New Year. You might remember an appeal last year for books for East Timor. You responded so generously that we had quite a lot of money left over, so that when Fr Bruce asked us to help out with some more student needs, we were able to send the balance. He is most grateful.

## A brief history

- January 2015: A request from Bruce Clarke - could we assist with purchase of Dictionaries for Students in East Timor? The National Council at that time agreed to purchase the books at a cost of \$1300.
- Accordingly a request was sent out to communities early 2015 asking for donations to assist with payment for this purchase. As a result, between February and June 2015 we received donations from various individuals and communities totaling \$1,859.00.
- After purchase of books, we were left with a “surplus” donation of \$558.00 and communities agreed that we could use this in case a further request of assistance was received from Fr Bruce.
- Such a request was received over recent months in correspondence from Fr. Bruce Clark and Sue Stuckey. At the November 2016 Lay Carmelite Council meeting, the Council approved the use of the rest of the funds

donated by all the communities. Seven English Bibles were purchased for the new novices, along with Internet connection for the library for 12 months and one bay of wooden shelving for the Library (see photo below).



Kate Swinfield standing at the first of the two library bays recently purchased with Lay Carmelite funds

Since this time there's also been a call for expression of interest for a suitably qualified teacher of English among our Lay Carmelite Communities, who could help out in our province at Hera. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact the Lay Carmelite Council who will put you in contact with Fr Bruce and the relevant people.

## Discalced Carmelite Friar Appointed Bishop of Lismore

Diocese of Lismore Website ([www.lismorediocese.org](http://www.lismorediocese.org))



Pope Francis has appointed Fr Gregory Homeming OCD as the sixth Bishop of Lismore. The date 22 February 2017 at 7.00pm in St Carthage's Cathedral is confirmed for the Episcopal Ordination at which our new bishop will also take canonical possession of the See in assuming the cathedra as Sixth Bishop of Lismore.

In anticipation of the forthcoming ordination, this prayer is being offered in all parishes in the Diocese: “For Gregory, our Bishop-elect, as he prepares to take up the sacred office of Bishop of the Church of Lismore. As our Chief Shepherd in the line of the Apostles, may he govern your people in love, and inspire and strengthen them in the faith, and in their lives of Christian witness”.

# Lay Carmelite Community News

Looking back to 2016

## Wentworthville

Carmel Hetherington's Final Profession on Sunday, 16 October.



L-R: Carmel, Lyn Craddy (Formator), Fr Anthony Scerri, and Brendan Capplis (Prior).

## Wollongong

Ron Taliana was Received on 17 September.



Ron Taliana with Fr Paul Gurr

## Melbourne



On 16 October the Melbourne Community celebrated the Final Profession of Ben Bekema and the First Professions of Margaret Stolke and Alicja Shaw (pictured with Fr Paul Gurr). Andrea Kleeven and Carol Augustus were Received on 11 December.

## Coorparoo



20 November - Rossy Minata and Mary Tom are Finally Professed and Marianne Enever and Paul Enever are Received. L-R: Fr Wayne Stanhope OCarm, Carmel Weston (Prior) Paul Enever, Felicity Enever (daughter of Paul and Marianne), Rossy Minata, Marianne Enever and Mary Tom.

## Palmerston North



On 14 December 2016 Gwenda Gopperth, Julie DuFresne, Mike Hogan and Pha-Raine Hickman made their Final Professions. As well, Dawn Casey, Michele Coghlan and Teresa Walton were received. Professions and Receptions were held at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North New Zealand.

continued their formation as they were formed in the traditions of Carmel and commitment to live in allegiance to Jesus Christ, Mary and Elijah.

# Lay Carmelite Community News

Looking back to 2016

## Wentworthville



L-R: Ray Garrett, Jim Milford, Brendan Capplis, Carolyn Garrett, Loraine Craig and Fr Anthony Scerri, OCarm. Lyn Craddy was not well enough at the time to join in the group photo.

On Saturday 17 September seven of us travelled to Leura in the beautiful blue mountains to the home of Lorraine & John Craig. Lorraine is a distance member attached to our community and welcomed us all with a wonderful brunch. We then explored Lorraine & John's magnificent garden, where we discovered the largest camellia flowers we had ever seen. Carmel and I love gardening and we were in gardener's heaven, and Brendan is a landscaper, so we all had a ball. In the afternoon, Fr Anthony Scerri, celebrated Eucharist. Many thanks to Lorraine and John for a beautiful day.

## Palmerston North

In other news from New Zealand, community elections were held. Gwenda Gopperth was elected Prior and Pha-Raine Hickman, Mike Hogan and DuFresne were elected to the Community Council. Shayla Rodrigues and her husband Nelson have successfully adopted a beautiful baby girl from India and her name is India Rose Teresa. As well, a few weeks later, Shayla gave birth to an equally beautiful boy called Noah John Paul – now a brother and sister to Raphael.

## Adelaide

22 April

Michael Kelly is Finally Professed.

## Warwick

18 October

Leonie Morris and Maria Ryan are Received.

## Central Coast

17 June

Maureen Johnston is Finally Professed and Patricia Grabham is First Professed.

## Canberra



Ian Reynolds and Lee Hardy, Canberra Lay Carmelites, attending Pam Dewhurst's funeral. (August 2016)

## Gold Coast



24 April

Selen Petrovic, Scott Rose, Norm Harding (Prior), Ravikumaran Karuppiah and Suramyia Durwearachchi are Received.

## Regional Lay Carmelite Congress

Lay Carmelites from the Asia-Oceania-Australia Region of the Order will meet in Vung Tau, two hours east of Ho Chi Minh City, from 15 - 20 February.

The theme of the gathering is: *Carmelite Charism: from the Community to the Family - How Lay Carmelites live the Carmelite Charism where they are.* Two Lay Carmelites from New Zealand and five from Australia will attend the 4 day gathering together with Fr Paul Gurr (Provincial Delegate). Chris Wade will present a short talk about Lay Carmelites in Australia and New Zealand.

# Community Profile - Adelaide

Keith Belton, TOC

The first Carmelites in Australia were two lay convicts, John Butler and James Dempsey, who arrived in 1802, transported for their part in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. The first official Carmelite foundation in Australia was made at Gawler, South Australia, in 1881 by the Irish Carmelites. These pioneer Carmelite friars arrived on Holy Saturday 1881, having been invited by the Adelaide Archbishop Shiel to assist the fledgling Church's apostolate in the early days of the colonisation of South Australia.

On arrival, the friars took over the Gawler parish, a sparsely peopled rural area, about 60 kilometres north of Adelaide and remained there until 1902 when they were given the city parish of Port Adelaide. It is noteworthy at this time to record that the present Church was built during the Carmelite era and that among the priests who laboured there was an Australian who later was elected Prior General of the Order, Fr Elias Magennis, OCarm.

It is unknown whether the early friars established the Third Order when in Gawler, but some evidence exists that it was part of the Port Adelaide parish life in 1936 for a parishioner, the late Miss Kath Rooney claimed to be a tertiary at that time. Nevertheless, the present Lay Carmelite community emerged in 1950/52 when Fr Ted Nugent as Provincial revived the Third Order throughout Australia.

Membership of the Adelaide Community has not at any time been large, but totally dedicated to the Carmelite Way of transformation into Christ. There

are 19 members including 3 distance members and two who are in residential care living their vigils to eternity. Two of the members were recently professed, whilst two entered eternal life during the past 18 months or so.

During the period the friars were in charge of the Port Adelaide parish the Lay Carmelites met in community in that parish. However, in 1998 when the friars left South Australia, the members began to meet in the OCD convent in Glen Osmond having been invited by Sr Alice Foley OCD to do so. These arrangements persisted until the nuns too moved their convent to Semaphore. Nowadays the Adelaide Lay Carmel come together in the Passionist Monastery situated across the road from the old OCD convent site on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

As for Carmelite activity the members although well past their youthful years still contribute to the Church's mission among God's people. They volunteer in the various parish ministries, work with the Society of St Vincent de Paul and have submitted contributions to justice issues such as the same sex marriage debate, the Timor/Australia continental shelf discussions and the Family Synod. Finally it must be noted that the members meet in the Monastery through the generosity of the Passionist Congregation. Accordingly we publicly acknowledge and graciously thank its members for enabling Lay Carmel to live an important part of the Order's charism and hopefully to maintain a presence worthy of the Order's pioneers in this State.

**Pope John Paul II** had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and as such faithfully wore a scapular (notice him wearing his scapular in the photo).

He is reported to have worn a brown scapular since he was a boy, and he insisted that doctors not remove it during surgery following the assassination attempt on his life in May of 1981.

SOURCE – Order of Carmelites Website  
[www.ocarm.org](http://www.ocarm.org)



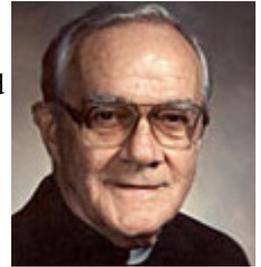
# The Word of God and Silence

Ernest Larkin, OCarm

The Word of God is Jesus Christ, revealed in the Bible. Carmelites gravitate to the Bible, as the summary of all God has to say to us. We are not bible-thumpers. We listen to the teaching Church, to sound theology and spiritual teaching as mediations and derivatives of the Bible. But we always come back to the Book. American Carmelites have had outstanding teachers of the Bible, such as Roland Murphy, OCarm and Christian Ceroke, OCarm, who influenced a whole generation of Carmelites.

The Bible is our Book. We study it in school, teach it in classes and homilies, pray it in our daily office and liturgy; meditate on it “day and night,” as our Rule says. We pray it in the age-old formula of “lectio divina,” which is a way of listening to the Word of God, reflecting on it, opening our hearts to it, and finally experiencing it. It is a way to interpret God’s Word for our own lives and to rest in the divine presence. The resting in God is silence. Silence is the ultimate response to God’s Word. It marks a permanent effect of listening to the Word of God. To put it simply, Carmelites are engaged with the Word of God to assimilate it and to communicate it to others. This is “the prayer and the ministry of the word” that belonged to the apostles in the New Testament. (Acts 6:4) The goal is our own transformation; we take on a biblical mentality; we “put on” Christ for our own sakes and for others. Our best preaching is what we are, not what we say.

Our new identity is received in silence, and the silence is called contemplation. Contemplation happens when the Word has taken hold of us. We also cultivate that divine presence by our prayer and ministry. All this is summed up in the Carmelite motto, “vacare Deo.” Vacare Deo means to be occupied with God, to relax with God, to experience the silent presence. This quality of contemplation is with us in all that we do. But there are special periods each day when we come aside and rest awhile with the Lord in meditation, and this is key to our contemplative life and ministry. Carmelites are busy ministers of the gospel like other Christians. Their special focus, however, is the inner work that makes the outer work fruitful. We are sons of the prophet Elijah and brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, but our deepest identity is to be in “allegiance to Jesus Christ.” (Rule, prologue). We belong to him in busyness and in silence, and our connection is silent love, “the language God best understands.” (St John of the Cross)



Ernest E Larkin, OCarm was born in Chicago on 19 August 1922 and entered the Carmelite minor seminary in 1935. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and did graduate studies in Rome at St Thomas University from 1948 to 1950. He obtained the doctorate in theology in 1954. In the 1980’s and 1990’s he traveled extensively, giving retreats and seminars, concentrating on Carmelite spirituality and contemplative prayer. He died in 2006.

## Middle Park Stamp Group

Nancy Mercurio (nancy@carmelites.org.au) Fundraising Development Manager



The Carmelites established a group called ‘Middle Park Stamp Group’. It has a long history which I believe dates back to 1973 when the group first assisted the Indonesian Mission. This later changed to assist our East Timor Mission. In that time almost \$26,000 was raised for Carmelite ministries.

Today, however, the stamp group as such no longer exists. Instead our Philatelic representative will still take the stamps we receive and we still receive an income from the sales.

If your Lay Carmelite Community wants to send us used stamps, please let us know. This little fund-raiser requires very little commitment from us and in return we receive between \$800-\$1,200 per annum to support East Timor.

We send our thanks to everyone who has helped over the years; your efforts are always appreciated.

# Farewell to Johnny

Long-time devoted Lay Carmelite **Helen Urbanski**, TOC lives on Bribie Island with her dog Bobby. Helen loves her garden and takes great pride in her home. Our visits to Helen have always been a joyful occasion and we still fondly recall a fund-raising visit with Fr Jim DesLauriers to play bridge and have lunch with a group of local card players at Helen's home.

A dear friend of Helen for some 60 years was John Oprysk. Johnny lived at Church of Christ Nursing Home in recent years, and, on a Sunday, he called around to have lunch with Helen and take Bobby for a ride on his motorcycle and a walk on the beach.

While Johnny was not a Lay Carmelite, he was a generous donor to Lay Carmelites and many calls and letters were sent to Johnny thanking him for his kindness and generous support. Johnny also had a strong and lasting association with the Bribie Island Air and Sea Rescue. So it was with great sadness that we farewelled Johnny on 17 October 2016. A close friend of Helen, Sister Maureen, wrote this poem as a farewell tribute to John, his friendship with Helen and Bobby, and his love of the sea. Following his funeral, his ashes were sprinkled into the sea around Bribie Island.

God of Love, God of Mercy, God of Life  
Helen and Bobby gather here today  
To commend John's spirit to Your care forever.  
As his ashes are scattered across the Ocean of Your love,  
May John's spirit be freed amongst the waves  
And may the power of the seas carry them to all eternity.

We thank You for John's life here on earth.  
John's journey like every journey brings it's own blessings.  
We give thanks for his goodness and the kindness  
he shared with many throughout his life.  
Thank you especially for the friendship  
John shared with Helen and Bobby.

God bless these treasured memories.  
May these memories bring comfort in the remembering.  
John was loved and respected by those whose lives he touched  
As days and months melt into one another  
We know that even in grief we are held in the palm of God's hand.

Surround Helen and Bobby with your love.  
Fear not John's spirit  
Go forward in Peace.  
Trusting in Your mercy O God and Your all embracing love  
We pray that You give John eternal happiness. Amen.