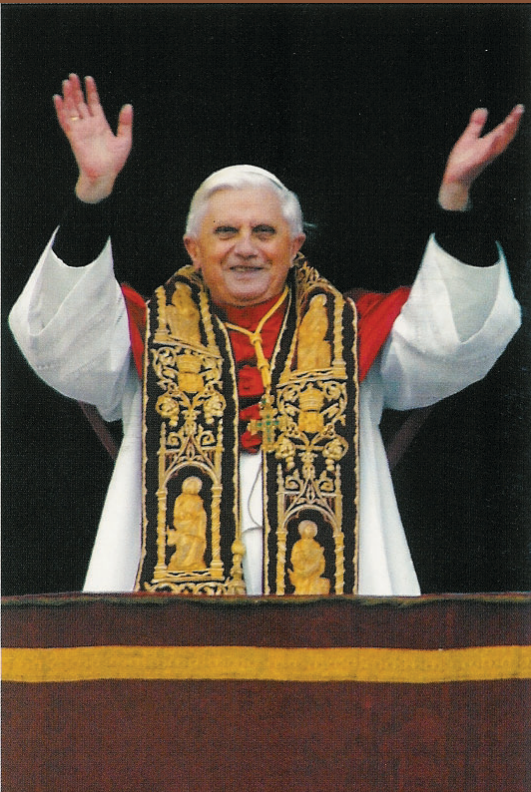


FranciscanNews

Volume 7, Issue 1, August 2005



Pope Benedict XVI

A word from our Provincial Minister

Dear Friends,
Welcome to another edition of the *FranciscanNews*. I hope you enjoy reading it and catching up on news of the Friars.

I would like to welcome Father Noel Fauth as the new editor of the Newsletter. At the same time I thank Brother James Fitzgerald as the

retiring editor. As you would know **The Franciscan Press** closed early this year; Brother Noel English has moved to Sydney and is working at the Provincial Office. He is still involved in the layout and printing of this publication.

Much is happening around the Province and we are again conscious of the wonderful support we receive from all our friends, benefactors and family. Our parishes are busy at this time of year and it is in these middle months of the year that many requests are made of us by Bishops and other organisations, so please keep us all in your prayers.

The Friars of this Province welcome Pope Benedict XVI into his ministry as Supreme Pontiff. I was in Rome at the time of the death of Pope John Paul II and was privileged to pray at his Tomb. I accompanied Friars from our General Curia to St Peter's on several occasions and remembered you in my prayer. We

look forward to welcoming Pope Benedict to our part of the world soon!

If you are able and have access to the internet have a look at the following websites: our Province webpage: www.franciscans.org.au; the Order's webpage www.ofm.org and Franciscans International www.franciscansinternational.org.

Our Province is the major sponsor of a website about the *Catholic Church*. You are most welcome to visit it and make use of this as a wonderful resource for the Catholic Church in Australia: www.catholicaustralia.com.au. On this site is information about the Sacraments, Spirituality, Saints, Religious Orders, Church Teaching and much more about the Church. Have a look on the front page of the website and you will see the Franciscans logo! We are proud to enable this resource to be available to the "Internet Community".

Soon we will be celebrating the feast of St Clare (August 11) which provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the closeness of God in each of our lives. My prayer for you is that you will experience the closeness of God at this time and that peace will be a greater reality in our world.

Yours in St Francis and Clare,

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me so love."

Stephen Bliss ofm

Stephen Bliss ofm
Provincial Minister



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Franciscan Father Tim Elliott OFM receives the cheque for \$22,300 from College Captains Gregory Thomson (Secondary) and Sam Foster (Primary).

Fr Tim Elliott ofm celebrates 50 years of priesthood

The last few days of June 2005 saw Brisbane bucketed with unseasonably heavy Winter rain for which most people were thankful. On Saturday, 2nd July 2005, the glorious Winter sunshine

for which the City is noted returned to provide a great setting for celebrations to mark Fr Tim Elliott's 50 years as a priest. Family, friends, friars and a great contingent of PNG people gathered at The Little Flower Church, Kedron for a Mass to mark the occasion followed by a social gathering in the Parish Hall.

Together with two other friars, Tim had been ordained in St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, on 25 July 1955. The following year saw his move to the Diocese of Aitape, PNG, where he has remained ever since. Tim was called to the life of a missionary and is most notably known in recent years as the person who gathered and administered finances for the Diocese following his extensive travels in North America and Europe. He has also been responsible for arranging for many and varied people from throughout the world to come to work in diverse regions and apostolates in the Diocese. When he is home from his travels he ministers to the island people of Ali and Seleo at weekends.

A congregation of several hundred people gathered to join with Tim in celebrating his 50 years of priesthood. Various family members and friends assisted with parts of the liturgy. Prior to the end of Mass, Sr Joyce Fenton of the Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception whose headquarters are in the parish of Kedron gave a tribute to Tim. Sister Joyce had worked with Tim over many years and obviously knew him very well.

Tim had hoped that the archbishop of Port Moresby, Most Rev. Brian Barnes ofm would attend the celebratory Mass but he was precluded from doing so by other duties. Fr. Bill McKeown of the Archdiocese of Brisbane who had

worked for many years in the Diocese of Aitape was a concelebrant along with Fr Colin Kenway ofm from New Britain. The Church of PNG and especially the Diocese of Aitape was well represented by former religious and lay missionaries, as well as many benefactors and friends of the Mission.

A small prayer card had been produced to mark the occasion and bore these words from the Letter of St. Francis to all friars. *"Let everything in humanity halt in awe, let all the world quake, let heaven exult when Christ the Son of the Living God is there on the altar in the hands of the priest."*

Ad multos annos.

Franciscan Generosity

Padua College students and staff handed over a cheque for over \$21 000 to Franciscan Missionary Fr Tim Elliott ofm at a recent College Assembly. Over a period of six weeks staff and students of the college worked hard to raise sponsorship for activities planned on both the Primary and Secondary campuses. The monies raised were earmarked for furthering the Franciscan Friars work in Papua New Guinea especially in the Diocese of Aitape.

"Once again the continuing tradition of generosity of the Paduan community in their annual Lenten Appeal has been outstanding in 2005" said the Coordinator of the fund-raising at Padua, Mr Mark Taylor. "This has been the first time that the whole college community has worked together on a particularly Franciscan project."

The money raised this year will be spent on renovation and upgrading the NALU Centre in Lae which provides ongoing education for the youth of that area.

St Bonaventure Inspires Technology at Padua College

On Sunday 22 May 2005, Fr Stephen Bliss ofm blessed and opened Padua College's new information, communication and technology building – the Saint Bonaventure Centre. Built on the site of the old library, which was blessed and opened in 1974, the St Bonaventure Centre represents the future direction of education at Padua as well as aesthetically

blending the architecture of St Francis Hall (previously the Friary) and the classroom buildings. The building dominates the streetscape of Turner Road and adds significantly to the visual presence of the College that was gained when the school was given the friary (St Francis Hall) as its administrative centre.

The St Bonaventure Centre is the culmination of three years of planning on the part of the Board of Directors of Padua College Ltd. Under the leadership of Greg McLean, the Chair of the Board and former College Captain of Padua (1973), the College recognised the need to improve its information technology capabilities to keep pace with societal and industry advances in this field. Thus a major feature of the Strategic Directions 2002-2006 of Padua College has seen the development of the St Bonaventure Centre. The building incorporates a modern library with increased computer research facilities, two seminar rooms with multimedia editing suites, two teaching/seminar rooms with eight computers each and three computer rooms each with thirty-two computers. Recognizing the important Franciscan value of humanity and the individual over the material, the Centre also incorporates a pastoral care centre with office space and interview room for four House Guardians and the Vice Rectors of Formation and Pastoral Care. The location of this pastoral care centre is symbolically and strategically important as it is in the centre of the school and closer to where the students are.

The next stage in the master planning development of Padua College is the construction of a Sports and Assembly Hall Complex including expansion of the industry skills facilities at the school. Although planning for this development has begun, it will be some time before it is completed in its entirety. In the interim, the College is progressively refurbishing its classroom facilities. All of the primary classrooms have been upgraded and they have networked computer facilities. On the Western Campus, the science laboratories were refurbished in 2002 and the three old computer rooms are now refurbished. As rooms are



refurbished, they will be networked to the St Bonaventure Centre.

In the speeches at the Opening Ceremony, Fr Stephen and Mr Bob Out (Rector) paid tribute to past friars and friar Rectors for their tremendous contribution in establishing and developing Padua College. Indeed it was pleasing that many friars attended the opening and that Fr Benignus Clowes ofm was present to unveil the new foundation stone and accompany Fr Stephen in blessing the building. Fr Stephen also acknowledged the significant contribution State and Federal government funding has made to the development of the College.

Additionally, the speeches acknowledged the valuable contributions of Greg McLean as the Project Manager, Peter McCabe (1973 Senior) as Architect and numerous Old Boy "Tradees" such as Dean Gordon (1970), who was the foreman of the project.

The blessing of the building was a highlight of Padua's annual Open Day and Artscape (art show) weekend. The ceremony provided a focal point for the Padua community with both past and present friars, students, staff and parents being present. The day also highlighted the resilience of the Padua community in preparing the new building, the rest of the school and grounds after a freak, devastating hail storm struck Kedron only three nights before the Open Day. On Thursday evening, Padua College looked as though it were located in a northern European winter rather than sub-tropical Brisbane. Considerable damage was done to the new building as

Opening of the St Bonaventure Centre



Hail Storm at Padua

well as older buildings and the normally beautiful grounds. Nevertheless, in the never say die attitude of friars like Alban, Odoric and Isidore, the staff and

students rallied to the cause and had Padua College looking as good as possible for the occasion.

Padua College is very proud to be able to name its new information, communication and technology centre in honour of St Bonaventure, who is known as the “second founder” of the Franciscans. He was a noted academic, a Doctor of the Church and a Cardinal, yet he was still a man of great humility. We hope and pray that the students who use the St Bonaventure Centre strive for the same academic excellence of St Bonaventure, but equally we pray they display and retain his humility.

Golden Jubilee at Kedron

On Saturday, 9th July, the Golden Jubilee of Sr Therese Miriam Donnelly was celebrated with Mass at St Teresa’s Church, Kedron, and with a morning tea in the church hall. Mass began with St Francis’ *The Canticle of Creation* and the perfect winter’s day echoed this joy. Many of Miriam’s Franciscan sisters and members of her family gathered with friends to mark this jubilee.

A native of Brisbane, Miriam first encountered the Franciscan sisters when she attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel School at Coorparoo. Then as a young woman she entered the Missionary Franciscan Sisters in 1952, completing her novitiate at Kedron. From there she went out to serve the Church in the field of teaching in various places including Silkwood, North Queensland, Kedron, Bardonia, Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads. In 1970 she began pastoral work first at Tennant Creek where she was a relief teacher in the State School and then she moved to Fitzroy Crossing where she was part of an outreach to the indigenous people of the Kimberley in Western Australia. Miriam remained there for

about 20 years, frequently visiting the camps and homelands of these indigenous people. There was also opportunity to companion the isolated persons who worked on pastoral properties and in service employment in the town. At the conclusion of the Eucharist her sister in this Franciscan Missionary endeavour, Sr Frances Crowe mfc, regaled the assembled congregation with tales of Miriam’s adaptability to working with people in such remote areas. Miriam’s modesty would lead her to say that she was simply doing the work of the Lord to which she had vowed herself so many years previously. In his homily Fr John Boyd-Boland ofm, PP, spoke of religious commitment as being somewhat of a miracle in this day and age when so many distractions of the modern world can intervene. As part of the ceremony, Miriam recommitted herself to her religious consecration before Sister Catherine White, Congregational Leader, and the assembled sisters affirmed her dedication with the words of St Francis, *Whoever will observe these things shall be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with the blessing of his beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and with all the powers of heaven and the saints”.*

In 2000 Miriam returned to Kedron but not before she had served in communities in Pottsville, Bradbury and Bardonia. Currently her extraordinary skills in sewing and toy making are being put to good use as well as her companionship of the residents of the nearby Delamore Retirement Community.

The recessional Hymn *Go Ye Forth Franciscan Daughter*, first used on the morning of her profession 50 years ago, was sung once more. Its sentiments portray the value of professed religious life in which commitment to Christ and his Church is fundamental. Within her own homeland Miriam has witnessed to Christ by being herself with and for the People of God.

In the church hall Miriam’s three brothers and three sisters, Peter, Margaret (Mrs Magee), Thomas, Patrick, Louisa (Mrs Burette) and Mary Ann (Mrs Donnelly-Mitchell) celebrated with their children and grandchildren. It was a most happy reunion for the family with Miriam

whose life has led her so far away from them. All enjoyed the refreshments and caught up with family news.

May the Good Lord continue to bless her with many graces in the years to come.

Meeting of Vocation Directors

- This report from **Matthew Beckmann**, Provincial Vocation Director

In May, the Provincial and Regional Vocation Directors from Australia and New Zealand, together with Mario Debattista, the Secretary for Formation and Studies, gathered in Sydney for a meeting and took some time to consider how best to carry forward their ministries.

One day of the meeting was given to a presentation from Sr Mary Ryan rsj, the Executive Director of Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia. Be forewarned! Much of her focus was on methods to involve other friars in the promotion of our way of life and the encouragement of new men to join us. The other principal activities were a consideration together of the recent document of the Order on the Pastoral Care of Vocations and a look at the psychosocial profiles of the upcoming “millennial” generation to see how we might best address their yearnings.

There was some sharing of common frustration at the difficulty in attracting new vocations to the Order in this part of the world but it was helpful to see that in the context of other similar groups in our region. Comparatively speaking, we are one of the more “successful” male orders! We are heartened by the continuing interest that young people have in the person of Francis and in the work of the friars and have a hope that this meeting helped us to target more effectively our work in accompanying new vocations into our way of life.

FI Asia

This short phrase encapsulates a strong hope and desire of Franciscans of the Asia/Oceania regions to establish an office of Franciscans International (FI) in this region.

During the week 13-17 June, thirty-five members of the Franciscan family from ten countries of the Asia Pacific region gathered at St Anthony Friary, Singapore. With John Quigley OFM, executive director of FI, their mission was to discuss the possibilities of setting up an Asian Office of FI, in addition to its offices in Geneva and New York.

A steering committee was elected and a working party set up to conduct a feasibility study regarding location, financial resources and staffing such an office.

Holy Spirit Province was well represented by Julie Morgan, Stephen Bliss, Matthew Beckmann and Michael D’Cruz.

- **Franciscans International** is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with General Consultative status at the United Nations, uniting the voices of Franciscan brothers and sisters from around the world. It operates under the sponsorship of the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF) and serves all Franciscans and the global community by bringing spiritual, ethical, and Franciscan values to United Nations forums and agendas.

Friars Worldwide

(incl. change from previous year)

Cardinals, Bishops	(+2)	112
Friar priests	(-117)	10 559
Permanent deacons	(-6)	63
Cleric candidates	(+11)	551
Friar brothers	(-38)	2 282
Total solemnly professed	(-148)	13 567
Temporary Professed	(-123)	1 766
Novices	(-16)	462
Grand Total		15 795

Friars of the Holy Spirit Province

(31 December 2004)

Friar priests	88
Friar brothers	37
Temporary professed	5
Novices	1
Total (Australia/overseas 98, Singapore / Malaysia 23, NZ 10)	131





Cecil Webster

Renovations Waverley, Sydney

Star of the Sea friary is undergoing a minor face-lift with a coat of paint inside and outside, as well as some structural repairs to cracks in the walls, renewal of carpets and refurbishment of the bathrooms.

The work will be done progressively, level by level, and friars will be required to vacate their rooms and move to spare rooms. Hence, guest accommodation will be severely restricted in the coming months.

Box Hill, Melbourne

With St Paschal friary now the main venue available for friar accommodation in Melbourne, the upstairs spare bedrooms, which have been used as “storerooms”, are being cleared and refurbished with new furniture, lighting, carpet and refreshed with a coat of paint. Both upstairs bathrooms have been remodelled to provide more accessible facilities.

Cecil Webster

CECIL WEBSTER was buried from St Matthew’s Church, Page, ACT, on 29 March.

After serving in the RAAF, he spent 1947 at St Anthony’s College, Robertson, NSW, then entered the novitiate with me (and a host of others) in February, 1948. He made his Simple Profession, then studied for three years at St Paschal’s College, Box Hill. He was stunned when his superiors informed him that they had not approved his making his Solemn Profession. They told him, “Go out and get married”, an order he obeyed to perfection.

He returned to Armidale, NSW, where we met again and remained in close contact for the rest of his life. There he entered the Commonwealth Public Service and remained a member all his hard-working life.

In Canberra he met his marvellous soul-mate, Margaret Brophy. They married in Perth, WA, in 1956. Cecil took a BA from University of Western Australia, plus high qualifications in accountancy, without neglecting children who kept arriving.

The family moved to Canberra in

1960 and Cecil and Margaret remained there ever since.

They raised six children and have numerous grandchildren. Cecil was a most attentive and loving father and husband.

Never did he abandon the way of St Francis. He loved to read his writings and those of St Bonaventure. Their ideals and prayers guided his life. Any mention of Duns Scotus or Occam aroused his interest. An active member of the Canberra Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order, he served in executive positions.

May the Lord show His face to him.

Written by Frank Mobbs

DVD on the Friars Missionary Work

◆ The presentation of the DVD *Misit Vos in Universo Mundo* (“I have sent you out to the whole world”) took place in the headquarters of RAI (the state-run Italian radio/television network) in Rome. It is a project promised by the General Secretariat for Evangelization of the Order of Friars Minor and made by the Production Center of the Antoniano in Bologna to tell of the missionary vocation of the Friars Minor incarnated in time and among peoples. This DVD is destined for a wide distribution, thanks to the choice of eight languages (Croatian, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish). It is not only presented to the Franciscan Family, but to all who wish to know the history and the present-day developments of the incarnation of the experience of Francis of Assisi.

Copies will be available from the Provincial Office next month.

A Beautiful Story to be Told

This is the title of a book released in June of this year and was written by Fr. Joachim O’Brien OFM. It covers the work of the Legion of Mary in Oceania from 1932 to 2005. The Legion and its work were brought to Australia in 1932 by two people who had attended the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. Within twelve years it had spread to almost every diocese in Australia. The 1950s

saw its expansion to Japan and other Pacific Islands.

Fr. Joachim has been associated with The Legion since coming to St. Francis Xavier Parish, Box Hill, Victoria. He took up the role of Spiritual Director of local praesidium and later became the director at the Senatus. This work embraced Australia and ten Pacific Islands. At the behest of Fr Aedan McGrath, a Columban priest, Fr Joachim began writing up the history of The Legion in Oceania in 1999. The work took four years to complete and Fr Joachim is to be admired for the research and effort he has put into telling this beautiful story. There has been Franciscan involvement in The Legion since its earliest days. The Legion is very active in 178 countries throughout the world.

Copies are available for \$7.00 (plus postage) from The Legion of Mary, 456 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051. Telephone: (03) 9328 4757.

Action on the JPIC front

The JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Commission) office continues to be very busy: from managing projects supporting the environment and refugees, to a host of speaking engagements for young adult groups about Franciscan JPIC, to liaising with the friars in Timor, West Papua, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia about ecology and tsunami projects, to an extraordinary amount of animation work through CLRI (Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes) NSW and the Franciscan Family, to facilitating the conversation amongst Franciscans in Asia and the Pacific about Franciscans International – the list has grown again this year.

The St Francis EarthCare Grants continue to be one of the primary ways that the JPIC office tries to reach young people with our unique message about the ecology. Only recently the final St Francis Earth Care funds were distributed for this year and so soon a report will be available with photos and descriptions from some of the best of this year's projects.

There is both good news and bad news on the refugee front. While our projects in the Romero Centre in Brisbane, Hotham Mission in Melbourne, and the House of Welcome in Sydney all report growing numbers of complex cases (the bad news), each centre is also reporting an increase in the number of people volunteering their time and talents to assist the refugees through English language training, transport to doctors, assistance with filling out forms, etc etc (the good news). We can even report at this time that the number of Franciscans involved in this volunteer work is also steadily growing (the very good news!).

The new JPIC Commission which began after last year's Provincial Chapter now includes: Matthew Beckmann, Nick Lucas, Andrew Granc, Paul Booth, and three lay people: Brian Kennedy (well known to the friars especially in Brisbane; Brian's former role in Social Welfare is very helpful), Sandra Menteith (an environmental expert from Sydney, Sandra lectures in environmental ethics at Catholic Institute of Sydney), and Patricia Fitzgerald (a former secondary school principal, Pat is an associate of the FCJ sisters in Australia and the region, and a parishioner from Box Hill). In including these three lay people, and ensuring that we have at least one friar from each of the three capital cities on the east coast, we hope in time to establish local JPIC committees to assist with animation activities and projects. The Commission has invited some other 'specialists' in the environmental area to come to an 'out of the ordinary' full day meeting in mid-September to consider the future environmental focus of the JPIC office.

In the coming weeks a poster will be sent to all friaries and parishes outlining the financial support provided after the Boxing Day tsunami, a report on the projects of the 2005 St Francis EarthCare Grants, and another short report on the progress to date of the agricultural projects that most of our parishes will begin supporting in East and West Timor.



Mangere Catholic Parishes



Owen Awcock



Sylvester Campbell



Gerard Davis



Bernardine
Bradbury



Maurice West

The parishes of St Anthony, Mangere Bridge and St Thérèse, Mangere East, at last count, together form the largest parish in New Zealand, with an average Sunday mass attendance of over 1,850. While most parishioners are from a Pacific Island background, the ethnic mixture of the neighbourhoods is changing, reflecting world migration and globalization trends.

The two parishes are just over four kilometres apart, and encompass a population of about 50,000 people. There are 55 Christian churches in Mangere! A refugee centre is also within the parishes. Two Catholic schools are within the parishes: Mary MacKillop School provides education for students in Years 1 to 8, and De La Salle College [nearly 1,000 students] provides education for boys in Years 7 to 13. St Anthony Parish conducts a registered Childcare Centre for 40 young children under five.

For 14 years, St Anthony Family Support Services Trust has continued to provide services such as a food bank, home visits, counselling, advocacy, programs for the elderly, referrals from government agencies and Christmas Day lunch and hampers - during each Sunday mass, and at all school masses, food for the food bank is brought forward in the Procession of the Gifts. Two very busy St Vincent de Paul shops within the parishes are staffed by a number of parishioners.

Confirmation with First Communion, for 7 year-olds, is held at one ceremony each year - over 110 candidates is the norm. Except during January and Lent, baptisms are held once a month during Sunday masses, on a rotating basis - between 6 and 15 is common each month. Anointing of the Sick takes place during first Friday masses in both parishes.

The Parish Pastoral Councils work closely together, with joint meetings each month, and recently, Andrew Granc ofm, led a combined retreat with the Pastoral Councillors of the neighbouring parish which forms the “trio” in our Pastoral Zone. Finance Councils continue to operate separately, though finances are interrelated. Parishioners work closely with one another, breaking down

previous barriers. There is one, combined weekly bulletin [with \$5 prizes for ‘Spot the Mistake’ competition], one Liturgy Committee for the both parishes, and training for all liturgical ministries, including musicians, is conducted together, as one. There are over 150 people involved in various liturgical ministries. The one Parish Office services both parishes. One set of planned giving envelopes for both parishes ensures a saving of \$1,000 per year! At every mass - Sundays and weekdays - there is singing of all the parts as well as the hymns. There are many prayer groups and additional masses, reflecting some of the ethnic groups within the parishes. The parish website provides some insight into our activities:

www.mangerecatholic.org.nz

St Thérèse Parish, having recently built a new 800 seat church, has a \$1m loan to repay, and is regularly doing fund-raising - a recent dance in true Pacific Island fashion [10am to 4pm] raised over \$14,000. Both parishes are holding fairs later in the year, St Anthony Parish needing funds for urgent maintenance work. New housing areas in the parishes has meant an increased population, and an increased attendance - as well as an increase in the need for services provided by and for parishioners.

Friars who have died since last edition

Laurence Bourke

Born 17th May 1920

Died 7th November 2004

Owen Awcock

Born 12th December 1934

Died 23rd November 2004

Sylvester Campbell

Born 3rd March 1917

Died 3rd February 2005

Gerard Davis

Born 26th March 1928

Died 8th April 2005

Bernardine Bradbury

Born 21st October 1909

Died 26th May 2005

Maurice West

Born 7th February 1928

Died 5th June 2005

Editors:
Noel Fauth ofm
Noel English ofm