

Franciscans and WYD in SYD 2008

The team in the Franciscan World Youth Day Office (Paul Ghanem OFM and Ben Galea in Sydney; Caitlin King in Brisbane) is working hard to prepare events sponsored by the Province. The other members of the Province's WYD Committee (Matthew Beckmann, John Boyd-Boland, Harry Chan and Carl Schafer) have also given input into the program. Paul and Ben are also in constant liaison with the official WYD Office in Sydney.

Jose Carballo, Minister General of the Order, has been invited and agreed to come to Australia to participate in some of the events and to meet the friars. The Province will also sponsor five friars from poor, developing nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia. A number of other friars from around the world, including Franciscan bishops, have also expressed their intention to attend.

Paul Ghanem (co-ordinator for the Franciscan WYD program) provided the following summary:

What exactly is the Province planning?**1 *An International Franciscan Gathering in Kedron, 10-13 July***

This four day live-in event will involve an international guest speaker, live music performances, outdoor activities and plenty of quality input on Franciscan Spirituality. It will be held on the grounds of Padua College and is open to young Franciscans from around the world and from Franciscan parishes around Australia.

2 *Stations Of The Cross at Maryfields, 15 July*

Presented in drama and mime, this prayer which is such an integral part of our Franciscan tradition, was thought to be the ideal way to kick off the Sydney events.

3 *Bondi Festival, 16 July*

Under the banner of 'One Light Many Journeys' this event will include a renewal of baptismal promises. It is expected that around 8000 young people will attend, including representatives from other Christian and religious denominations.

4 *Edgecliff, Paddington and Waverley Churches, 17-18 July*

These three Franciscan churches will be used as prayer spaces and catechesis centres and will form part of the official WYD08 program.

5 *Thanksgiving Event 27 July*

This event will take place one week after the official end of WYD 'week'. It will be an afternoon of sacred music held in Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley, and be aimed at staff and volunteers who contributed to the staging of WYD08.

In addition to these events the Secular Franciscan Order and inter Franciscan committee and other Franciscan groups are planning events in which friars are involved.

Paul, Ben and Caitlin can be contacted on the following specific email addresses:

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Ordination Jubilees

July and August were certainly the months for ordination jubilee celebrations. Michael Brown reported that **Leo Curran's** 40th anniversary was celebrated "in fine style with Mass at the friary and one of the best community meals out ever". **John Pickering** (40) was feted by the combined Spanish-speaking, deaf and disabled communities in Wollongong at a Mass where Bishop Peter Ingham preached and dinner was served for 300 people; **Kevin Goode** (50) celebrated with friars and family at Minto; **Hugh Walsh** (50) and **Hugolin Bourke** (50) concelebrated the community Mass at Star of the Sea – Hugh was later honoured at an Edgecliff parish Sunday Mass and lunch; **Robert Matthews** (50) was joined by a large Box Hill parish congregation on the actual anniversary; **Terry O'Neill** (50) celebrated Eucharist at Francis Haven with family and friends who also joined the community for lunch; **Cormac Nagle** (50) celebrated Eucharist and lunch with two gatherings of family and friends, one at Kedron and another in Box Hill. **Joachim O'Brien** (60) celebrated with the St Paschal community.

The largest single group of friars to be ordained in Singapore also marked ten years of priestly ministry in August: **Clifford Augustine, Michael D'Cruz, Martin Low, Joseph Nasanathan and Arul Sagayaraj Mariadass**. In December, **Theodore Gillian** will mark 40 years and **Benedict O'Donoghue** will celebrate 70 years of ordination. Thus far, only one friar in the Province has achieved this milestone – Bishop Ignatius Doggett (71 years).

The Province gives thanks for all of these friars' service to the Order and Church – from Singapore and Aitape to Launceston, from Auckland to Perth, and points in between.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Promoter

Three candidates for the position were interviewed by a panel of friars and members of the JPIC Commission. Each of the candidates was impressive and each would have brought appropriate skills and much experience to the role. The panel recommended to the Provincial Minister that **Sarah Menassa** be appointed the role of JPIC Promoter. Sarah has accepted the position and will commence full-time employment on 7 January 2008. In the meantime, from mid-October until the end of the year, Sarah will spend one day a week reading and familiarising herself with the files and previous projects of the JPIC Office.

For the past four years, Sarah has taught at SCEGGS Redlands (Sydney), a co-educational, independent Australian Grammar School. She co-ordinates Stages 4-6 Geography and the Studies of Religion program. She also co-ordinates the College's Cambodia/Vietnam program. Previously, she spent four years at St Vincent's College, Potts Point (Sydney). "My focus in an educational setting is on social and environmental issues which I have pursued through the teaching of Geography and Studies of Religion."

Sarah is, and has been for some time, involved in her local parish of St Bernadette, Dundas Valley (Sydney) on various committees and pastoral council positions. She has travelled widely and her visits to Assisi have deepened her rich appreciation of Franciscan spirituality. The panel also felt that Sarah's warm personality will be another asset to the Provincial Office and to the friars and others with whom she will work.

Joe Rozansky of the General Curia JPIC Office will visit the Province in February/March 2008. Matthew Beckmann is liaising with Joe to develop a program whereby Joe will give some presentations to the friars, Franciscan family and to other interested groups.

The Bangkok office of Franciscans International will be opened officially early next year. The unconfirmed date is 24 February 2008. Since 2004, Franciscan leaders from the Asia Pacific region have been working on this project. Approval was given by the FI Board in September 2006 and during 2007 Julie Morgan, FI Asia Pacific program co-ordinator has been working at the Geneva FI office on practical arrangements for the establishment of the Bangkok office. This is a major development for FI, of which this Province has contributed generously in personnel support and finances.

Padua College Jubilee Sculpture

Provincial Minister Stephen Bliss blessed a new **sculpture of St Francis** in the forecourt of St Francis Hall, Kedron, Brisbane (formerly the friary) on 17 September. The sculpture is a gift from the Province to the college in recognition of all friars (teachers and others) who have been associated with Padua since 1956. The sculpture is a slightly larger than life-size image of St Francis made of brass plate 10cm thick. The double-sided etching is visible from the road and also from the college. It is set in context with a mosaic which symbolises water, environment and movement. Francis' admonition 'Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance' features prominently, as does the dedication: 'Dedicated with gratitude to all Franciscan Friars who have served at Padua College since 1956'.



• Stephen Bliss OFM blesses the brass etched statue of St Francis in the college forecourt as students look on.



• With St Francis: Greg McLean (chair, College Board), Noel Fauth and Peter McCabe (Board members), Justin Drew, Ignatius Hickson

Padua's New Centre

At the request of Padua College administration, friars were asked for ideas for a **name for the new multi-purpose centre** at Padua. The Provincial Council received some suggestions and agreed on the name *Holy Spirit Centre*, noting St Francis' reference to the Holy Spirit as the 'true Minister General of the Order' and acknowledging the 1606 De Quiros/Franciscan expedition which named the Australian land mass as the 'Great South Land of the Holy Spirit'.

The building, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year, will hold approximately 1200 students and staff. It will be used as a sports centre and assembly hall and for whole-school liturgies (the parish church is not large enough).

Provincial Chapter

Thirty one friars will gather at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, on Sunday evening 23 September to review the previous three years and plan for the next term of the Provincial administration. Marist Brother Tony Clark (from Melbourne) is the facilitator for the Chapter.

The Chapter will commence with an Opening Liturgy on Sunday 23 September at 5.00 p.m. On Monday morning, the reports of the Visitor General and Provincial Minister will be presented, followed by other reports during the week, general discussion on issues raised at the regional meetings and during the Chapter. Please join the friars in praying for the success of this meeting. The elections for the new administration are scheduled as follows:

Provincial Minister	Wednesday 7.30 pm
Provincial Vicar	Thursday 9.30 am
Definitors	Friday 9.30 am



Franciscan Schools Australia

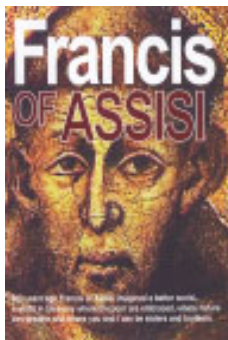
The inaugural conference of **Franciscan Schools Australia** was held on 1-3 August at the Mercy Centre, Bardon (Brisbane). It was an opportunity for some Franciscan input and formation for teachers from schools founded by, or under the patronage of, Franciscans. A total of 92 people from four states participated at some point over the three days. The keynote addresses at the Conference were given by John Boyd-Boland, who spoke on *A Franciscan Educator in a Post Modern Culture*, and Breige O'Hare OSC, who spoke on *St Clare and the Dignity of the Human Person*.

An array of workshops were offered including ones by Matt Hufer on *Developing a Franciscan Pedagogy*, and Kathy Hodge and David Wren of Padua on *Transmitting the Stories and Values of Francis in a Primary School Context*.

In addition, Ben Galea gave a presentation on the OFM plans for World Youth Day. He and Caitlin King had a chance to meet and talk with Franciscan teachers from around the country. Bishop Joe Oudeman OFM Cap celebrated and preached at the Conference Mass on the Feast of the Portiuncula.

Franciscan Schools Australia was recently created to sustain and support Franciscan identity in schools where there is only minimal formal connection to the Franciscan family.

At the conference there was a very positive and enthusiastic spirit amongst those present and an obvious eagerness to learn more of the schools' common Franciscan identity and of the movement of which they are part. It would seem from the "frivolity" at the conference dinner that most participants had some good grounding in at least one aspect of the Franciscan charism even before they arrived.



St Francis of Assisi DVD

St Francis of Assisi (Imagined a Better World), a 17 minute co-production between the FMM and OFM, has been circulated to friaries, schools in Franciscan parishes, Secular Franciscan Order fraternities and other people associated with the Order. It features the social services work of the 'Come In Centre' (Paddington NSW) and Franciscans International at the United Nations and the Franciscan support for education in environmental issues around the Murray Darling Basin. Extra copies for any interested persons are available at the Provincial Office. Tel (02) 9369 9300 or email office@franciscans.org.au

Poor Clare Elections

At the triennial Chapter of Elections at Bethlehem Monastery on 9 August, Sr Colette Jones was elected Abbess and Sr Annette Brown was elected Vicaress. Srs Anne-Marie Joyce, Diana van Baer and Catherine Teo were elected Discreets (councillors).

Several Catholic papers have recently been advertising **DVD Studio Classics** including the Bradford Dillman 1961 movie version of *Francis of Assisi*, "the story of a young adventurer who exchanged his sword for a cross and rose to glory". This particular edition about the life of the man of peace is rated "Parental Guidance, Mild Violence"!