



Provincial Rector's Letter

July 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters

One of the things we sought to achieve for the Australian Province in 2012 was the improvement of communication within the individual chapters and within the province as a whole. This letter is the first of its kind and I hope will make a contribution to achieving that goal.

Australian Provinces

I'm delighted to announce that with the formation of a chapter of SCP in Brisbane diocese we now have a chapter in every Province of the Australian church. I'm grateful to Fr John Cuffe for his work in gathering a chapter in Brisbane. I inaugurated the chapter at All Saints, Milton on 10 May. The inaugural members were Fr John Cuffe, Fr Tom Sullivan, Fr Allan Dale, Mother Elsie Clack, Fr Peter Catt and Mother Keren Terpstra.

Another priority for 2012 identified at the 2011 AGM was the formation of a Company of Servers affiliated with each Chapter. The Company of Servers hopes to raise not only an understanding of the practice of serving but also encourage those who serve already to continue and to feel valued. Through raising awareness of the ministry of those who serve at the altar it is hoped that others will begin to explore this essential role in the service of God and his Church. A Chapter is in the process of formation in Newcastle, growing out of a liturgical training day sponsored by the Chapter and offered to the whole diocese in May this year.

Rome Conference

A contingent of thirteen Australians attended the first International Conference of SCP held in Rome from 11-14 June. We were part of a total conference attendance of 86 members of the Society from Australia, Europe and North America. We met each day for worship and for Bible study led by Dr Paula Gooder. Paula is an engaging and stimulating teacher and will be visiting the Diocese of Perth later this year from 15 – 28 October. During her visit she will be presenting two events in St George's Cathedral. On 18 October at 7.30 pm she will deliver a lecture entitled 'St Luke the Beloved Physician' and on 21 October between

5.00pm and 6.00pm she will deliver an address on the 20th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Perth, and the witness of St Frideswide. We met with Monsignor Mark Langham who deals with Anglican matters at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, attended a reception at the Anglican Centre hosted by Canon David Richardson and a General Papal Audience. The conference concluded with a concelebrated eucharist in All Saints Anglican Church, Rome. The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet up with brothers and sisters from across the world, to share ideas and offer support and encouragement. I hope that the Australian Retreat and AGM in Adelaide this October (see details below) will provide the same opportunity for energising our mission and ministry. I am very grateful to Fr Scott Moncreiff for putting together the Adelaide programme and for his hard work in organising the gathering.

Constitution

During the Rome Conference I met with the Rector General (Fr Andrew Nunn) and the Rector of SCP in North America (Mother Lizette Olsen Miller) to discuss the European Province's proposal of a common Manual for SCP. The view of Australia and North America is that a manual must provide sufficient flexibility for the special conditions found in provinces other than Europe.

The lessons that Australia and the USA can learn and teach in relation to operating over distance will be important for the formation and operation of the Society in Brazil.

Rural Dioceses

At the 2011 AGM and at the Rome conference I raised the question of the expansion of SCP into rural dioceses in Australia. The next stage in our vision is the development of Chapters in rural dioceses since we now have core Chapters in every state. I encourage existing diocesan Chapters to make connections with fellow priests in other dioceses within their provinces with a view to laying the foundations for an SCP presence in every diocese (It may be that this presence does not take the form of a Chapter but is perhaps similar to the "lone member" concept of MU or the unattached members in SCP USA – a group which constitutes their largest 'chapter'.)

For your Prayers

Part of our rule of life is to pray for our brothers and sisters within the society. To enable us to do this I have asked Chapter Rectors to provide a list of chapter members to compile into a Provincial Prayer diary. It would be appropriate to up-date this regularly (perhaps twice a year) to take account of new members. Within the Australian church please keep in your prayers those dioceses who are reflecting on episcopal elections current or forthcoming: the dioceses of Bathurst, Newcastle, Riverina and The Murray. Pray that God will raise up wise and inclusive pastors for these dioceses.

Fr James Rigney

**SOCIETY OF
CATHOLIC PRIESTS
AUSTRALIA**

Retreat

With Fr Bill Lawton

The Priest as Community Story-Teller



1st – 3rd October, 2012

The Monastery, 15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond, Adelaide, SA 5064

The Retreat

The themes for the Retreat are:

- Telling our Stories
- The Liturgy as Story
- Engaging the Australian Story
- Becoming more Dynamic Story-Tellers.
- Shaping a New Story

“Reviving the forgotten art of storytelling is a feature of the post-advertising age”

(Stephen Denning, author of “The Springboard: How Storytelling Ignites Action in Knowledge - Era Organizations” and Programme Director of Knowledge Management at the World Bank)

Timetable

Monday 1st October

- 11 am Registration
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 2 pm SCP Meeting – Report of 2012 International Meeting
- 6.00 pm Dinner
- Retreat Starts
- 9.00 pm Compline

Tuesday 2nd October

Retreat

Wednesday 3rd October

- 11.00 am Retreat end
- Annual Chapter Meeting
- Lunch
- Departure

Cost

\$450 Residential

\$290 non- residential – no breakfast but other meals included.

Payment: Please make a cheque payable to:

Fr David McDougal.
24 Hay St Kadina, SA 5554

If you wish to make alternate payment arrangements please contact him directly at:

(08) 88 21 1219 Mobile 0429 380 717.

revdave.mcdougall@bigpond.com

Please inform us of any special dietary requirements before the conference.

Location

Set in tranquil, picturesque grounds in the Adelaide foothills "The Monastery", is only five kilometres from the hustle and bustle of the city centre is well positioned to all of Adelaide's tourist destinations including the beaches, the wine regions and the mid north. The buildings are a former Passionist monastery and still home to the community who run a parish from the site. It also has a special sacred garden with carved marble stations of the cross. The address is 15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond SA 5064 | T +61 8 8338 8700 | F +61 8 8379 8751. The best way to reach the Monastery is by taxi from the airport – about a twenty five minute ride.

The Retreat Conductor will be Fr Bill Lawton.

Fr Bill Lawton holds a Bachelor of Divinity degree with honours from the University of London a Master of Arts degree from the University of Sydney - 'A Study of Urban Development and Interaction - Australians and Italians in the inner Sydney suburb of Leichhardt, with special reference to the period 1950 to 1971' and a Ph.D. degree from the University of NSW - *The Better Time to Be: Utopian Attitudes to Society among Sydney Anglicans 1885-1914*.

Bill was made deacon and ordained priest in 1959. He is married to Margaret and has five adult children and eight grandchildren.

He interspersed a thirty-year seminary teaching career in History, Liturgy and Biblical language with three pastoral commitments, two of these in socially complex parishes focusing on support of Indigenous people, adolescents, street people and sex workers. Over a ten-year period till 1999 Bill was Rector of St John's Anglican Church, Darlinghurst, NSW leading a team ministry with inner city marginalised people. As well as regular parish duties, this involved setting up a street café, employing a counselling and legal team and initiating a range of support programs. At the same time He served as chaplain at SCEGGS Anglican School for Girls at Darlinghurst with staff and students and at Elizabeth Lodge with the elderly.

More recently while working as National Chaplain for a major Charity He researched and published on workplace ethics and spirituality with particular emphasis on values to support and retain Indigenous Community Service staff. This led to significant involvement over an extended period with these staff and with remote Indigenous communities.

In 2010, He published a paper based on those experiences which can be found in: Elinor L. Brown, Rhonda Craven, George McLean, Series Editors, *International Advances in Education*, Series Volume, Dowson, Martin and Devenish, Stuart, Religion and Spirituality, William James Lawton, 'Community Service Orientations of Indigenous Peoples: the Role of Spiritual Values', Information Age: Charlotte CA, 2010, chapter 14.

He has been a facilitator with the Australian College of Ministries since 2008.