

TAU FEBRUARY 2022

The Province of the Pacific, Third Order Society of St Francis



CONTENTS...	Pages
From The Minister Provincial	2
The Challenge of Leprosy	3
Kings Companions	4
God Loves Diversity	5
Juniper Forest Meetings	5
From The Formation Director	6
Te Aroha Group	7
Book Review - What Do You Seek?	8
Portiuncula Meetings	9
Gubbio Area	12
Companions Corner	13
Book Review - Surrounded By Love	14
Consider a retreat at St Isaac's this year?	16
Labyrinth Prayer	18
A Quote From 'Care For Creation'	19
Franciscans International and Franciscans Aid	20

Website - tssf.org.nz Please check the website regularly for updated Intercession and Address lists.

Please send any articles that would interest us about your area events or other Franciscan happenings in time for the next issue to

janicegthorne@gmail.com or Janice Thorne

204 Bowler Road

RD2

Te Aroha 3392

New Zealand

Phone: 027 823 6370

The next Tau is due out at the end of May 2022

Please send me your stories, etc by Friday 20th May.

From the Minister Provincial

"Welcome to 2022 and I trust you have enjoyed some downtime and relaxation in the midst of Christmas and school holidays and year end events.

It has been our privilege to provide hospitality to many friends and family over these last summer months, many of whom needed a place to go from lockdowns and with freedom to walk, swim and bike the local beaches and trails. We have traversed the world and its troubles through wonderful conversations, sharing memories and stories.

I have reflected over this time where this places us as Franciscans, when we are called to live in a spirit of love and harmony, to live simply, to serve others, to pray, to study, to work, to be humble, loving and joyful.

There are many questions I have asked myself and here are a few of them.

If I were to take out of my life the clutter which surrounds this call, what does that mean and look like to me? How simply can I keep my profession vow at the same time as being a beacon of peace and joy while serving others?

How many of my conversations and thoughts are centered on world events and what is happening around me rather than a focus on living joyfully and humbly?

If I was to add up the time spent reading, listening to others, googling and then sometimes fearing the results of covid I wonder what that would total and how I could have spent that same time in better ways?

Some of my conclusions have been that it is good to be challenged and especially so, if I am open to learning what I can from the challenge.

Also as a result of being challenged and learning does it mean I need to allow for new ways of doing things, reading on topics and issues I normally wouldn't choose and maybe changing the way I do some things.

In this time of social distancing, being careful about our health and watching out for our "neighbours" how do I best respond to this Franciscan call.

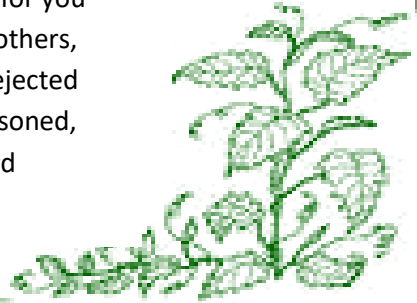
I have not come up with pat answers, however for me I understand that changes were and are needed for me to follow in Francis and Clare's footsteps. I am challenged to increase actions like compassion, prayer, study and work so that my daily example equals in some way the Principles day 14 to 20.

Thank you for taking part in my journey by reading, and I hope and pray you are experiencing the deep peace in the presence of God and the joy of being in a community even though dispersed.

Blair



Lord God
you came among us as a servant,
Fill us with your humility
that we may, like Francis our brother,
forget ourselves in love for you
and in compassion for others,
and in the lonely and rejected
the deprived and imprisoned,
find Christ our Lord
Amen



The Challenge of Leprosy

I have been privileged to work over the past 40 years in Central America, Asia and the Pacific with some of bravest, most courageous and generous people I have ever met.

One day in a crowded market place in Jogjakarta Indonesia, I came across a man suffering from leprosy, begging for some coins, in the process he was being physically and verbally abused by those passing by. It was a God moment when I stopped, we couldn't understand each other in words but we conversed through touch and our eyes, I left him there with what coins I had, both of us in tears for obvious but different reasons.

Leprosy is medically curable, using a triple drug therapy for 6 months, however patients are non-infectious after 2 weeks.

But stigma can be lifelong. Stigma is the worst part of leprosy as it separates people from their communities and livelihoods. About 10% of those who suffer from Leprosy also have a disability in some way or another.

Self-help groups in Nepal have communities within communities and individuals now form community loan groups. In Bangladesh micro loans have a 99% payback rate.

Hospitals are set up to help those diagnosed with leprosy, rehabilitate them back into community life and provide a loving caring environment in that process.

It is such a challenge to know what to do in today's world, that what we do will make a very real and tangible difference for those in need around us. Francis began by embracing the leprosy sufferer, where do we begin? My belief is that if we all play a part somehow, wherever we are whatever we are passionate about and put our hand up to be involved, then the difference is made collectively together rather than what one person can do on their own.

Blair Matheson

Kings Companions...

A big thank you to Laurie, who has put up his hand as our Convenor; because travel is so unsure this year we will attempt 2 collective ventures and maybe some zoom and local meetings in Taranaki & Waikato, As we live in interesting times I trust we will create some small cells for prayer and praise together either physically, at a particular time/day, or zoom & phone. The world needs Francis' charism of grace, love, simplicity, relationship care for creation and one another whether we have the same view point or not, whether we understand or not!

As our Bible says...English Standard Version

'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love'. (1 John 4:18)

Another favourite of mine is: New International Version

'To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory'. (Col 1:27) which of course is spoken to all creation and is indeed a mystery.

As we do things in three my final go to is – (ESV) 'For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace'. (John 1:16)- the wee comment is ok in the Bible Hub. 'The Word Became Flesh' John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' " **16 'From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ'**Berean Study Bible · Download
So let us all in the power of Christ pray for eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts full of love.

Pax et Bonum.

Aroha nui Hélène Young

God clearly loves diversity.

All we need to do is look at the animal world, or the world under the sea, or each human being: who of us looks exactly alike?

We are always different.

Is there any evidence to show where, in all creation, that God prefers uniformity? But we consistently confuse uniformity with spiritual unity... In the Trinity, we have the paradox at least metaphorically resolved.

But most of us don't easily know how to be both diverse and united. We want to make everybody the same. And the church has become more and more an exclusionary institution, instead of a great banquet feast to which Jesus constantly invites sinners and outcasts...

The ego is much more comfortable with uniformity, people around me who look and talk like me, and don't threaten my boundaries. But in the presence of the Trinitarian God, God totally lets go of boundaries for the sake of the other. Each accepts full acceptance by the other.

...God's pattern and goal has never been naïve uniformity but radical diversity (1 Corinthians 12:4–6) maintained in absolute unity by "a perfect love" that infinitely self-empties and infinitely outpours—at the same time.

— Richard Rohr

Here are the dates for Juniper Forest meetings this year...

February 19th	this will be by zoom
April 2nd	meeting to be held at Selwyn Library, Parnell.
June 18th	as above
August 20th	as above
October 15th	as above
December 10th	meeting to be held at Vaughan Park.

The meeting may be changed to a zoom meeting depending on Covid restrictions.

Many Blessings,
Diane.

From The Formation Director

Over the past few months there has been a steady stream of those wishing to explore a call to TSSF. It is always a joy to be able to respond to these people. Thank you so much to all of those who agree to accompany them on their journey of discernment and study. What you do is so important and I believe and trust that it is a two-way blessing.

We are quite short of Professed Members able and willing to take the role of Novice Counsellor in some areas. If you have been professed for a year or more, please pray about whether you could consider this ministry. Talk with your Area Chaplain, and maybe someone in your Area who has been or is a Novice Counsellor. You may be surprised by how little time commitment is required, though there is some time needed.

Thank you to the Novice Counsellors who have remembered to make contact with me and the Area Chaplain every three months when you receive the 3 monthly report from the person you are accompanying. It really helps just to keep a finger on the pulse and make sure everything is progressing as it should.

Over the past five months we have welcomed 8 Novices as new members of TSSF: Sarah Askey, Jai Kemp, Karen Lundie, Ingrid Vlieg (all in Gubbio Area); Jeremy Glasier (Portiuncula Area); Lynn Kim, Dorothy Muir, Anne Russell-Brighty (Southern Area).

We also rejoice in the safe return to New Zealand of Margaret Poynton, after her battle with Covid 19 which fast tracked her departure from Papua New Guinea. Welcome home, Margaret. We had anticipated conducting Margaret's Profession using Zoom, but she was home and out of MIQ in time to make her Profession Vows on the same day as the Novices in Wellington made theirs. Welcome, Margaret as a newly Professed member.

In addition to these Novices and newly Professed in New Zealand, there are many new names from the other part of our Province, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. You will notice more names in the Intercession list. Sam Faga, Regional Formation Director in Solomon Islands, has sent copies of the Novice Certificates and Profession Certificates for the past two years. I do apologise that it took me a year to realise that I needed then to forward these names to Janice to be added to the Intercessions list. But they are there now.

I pray for us all that we have a sacred time of Lenten preparation and as we continue to open more and more to Holy Spirit as we journey on following Christ after the example of St Francis.

Marion Fairbrass
Formation Director.

Te Aroha Group

Our group met on Tuesday 8th February by zoom for the second time and found it a very acceptable way to meet in the current omicron climate. We have 10 active members, of whom 8 have computer capabilities. Sadly the best way we can keep in contact with the others is by phone and letter. Our group ranges from Taupo to Te Aroha, Coromandel, Tauranga.

We always begin with the Community Obedience, and then share where each one of us is up to. Four books being studied by members are:

Me and White Supremacy, by Layla F. Saad (recommended by Blair Matheson)

How to be an anti-racist, by Ibram X Kendi (recommended by Masud Syedullah, and Brian Hamilton)

Franciscan Footprints, by Sister Helen Julian CSF (being read by several)

Here I am Lord, Send Someone Else, by Jill Briscoe, (recommended by Vacion Rae)

Members shared other thinking they have been wrestling with.

Blair spoke of Omicron being the catalyst to change his thinking to living more day-to-day.

Vacion spoke of the art of dying, which sparked a lively conversation.

Brian shared an experience of the contrast of Jesus and Francis as opposed to the wealth and complexity of the Vatican (and Lambeth Palace).

Blair spoke of the original SSF cross which was just simply two brush strokes, which led Peter to contrast this cross with the highly painted San Damiano Cross.

We plan to meet again in May by Zoom but with the hope of getting to Convocation in September.

Brian Hamilton



"Remember these? There are still some available for \$10.00 plus postage \$2.00.

A number of people find them useful when they are not wearing a profession cross. They are not an "official" badge of belonging, so are able to be worn by others, not just members of tssf, so that includes postulants and novices. They attract comment so are often an opening to share one's faith in a gentle way.

Contact Marion Fairbrass, formationtssfpacific@gmail.com to purchase."

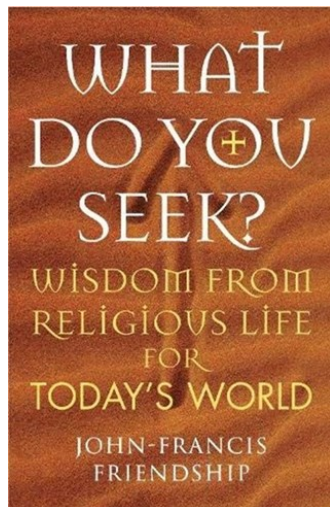


Book Review
What Do You Seek?
Wisdom from religious life for today's world
by John-Francis Friendship

07 JANUARY 2022

Dominic Walker reads a personal perspective;

THE title of this book, *What Do You Seek?*, is the question traditionally asked of a novice standing before the altar and about to make his or her vows. The subtitle, *Wisdom from religious life for today's world*, explains the purpose of the book. Nevertheless, it took me by surprise, because it is not a book that focuses on the ancient monastic traditions (although they are by no means ignored), but a book that looks more closely at the consecrated life, often called the "religious life" within the Anglican tradition, and it is a very personal reflection.



Perhaps I should not have been surprised, because the author, John-Francis Friendship, is a Franciscan priest who for 25 years was a friar in the First Order and is now a member of the Third Order. He writes from a wealth of personal experience of living in community as well as nurturing others in the tradition as a guardian of novices and as a spiritual director. He reflects on the ancient monastic and mendicant traditions and how Benedictine, Cistercian, Franciscan, Augustinian, and Carmelite spiritualities have helped to shape Anglican religious communities over the past nearly 200 years.

The author draws on the wisdom of Anglican religious founders and present-day religious, besides reflecting on the courage and vision of the early founders attempting to restore the religious life in the Church of England, often opposed by bishops, but gaining admiration for their selfless and sacrificial lives in serving the poor and sick. The author also looks at the present-day growth in dispersed and mixed communities and in the solitary and hermit vocation, and he provides an appendix of communities to which he has referred.

Archbishop Robert Runcie said that when leaders of various Orthodox Churches, somewhat suspicious of Anglicanism, visited Lambeth Palace, their fears were always allayed when they saw Anglican nuns living there, because for them monasticism was the bedrock of the Church.

What do you seek? It was the question that I asked a young novice at Tymawr Convent a few weeks ago as she made her monastic profession, but it is not just a question for aspiring monks and nuns, but for all the baptised, and, as the Bishop of Manchester says in the foreword, perhaps this book should be required reading for all exploring their vocation. Being a “vicar” may be the only model with which they are familiar.

This book has been well researched, and its personal testimony witnesses to the religious life as a living tradition. It does what it sets out to do by showing the relevance of the religious life for today’s world and for all who seek to be disciples of Jesus.

The Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS is a former Bishop of Monmouth.

What Do You Seek? Wisdom from religious life for today’s world

John-Francis Friendship

Book Depository NZ\$40.99

(978-1-78622-345-6)

Chapters include:

- * Knowing your heart's desire and pursuing it;
- * Counter-cultural living - the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience;
- * Clothing yourself in Christ - getting into holy habits;
- * Living in community - how to get along together;
- * God in all things - seeing the whole world as divine;
- * For the sake of the kingdom - serving those in need;
- * Living with thanksgiving - shaping the eucharistic life.

Prayer

Lord our society often seems to be abounding in excess. So much money is spent on what people **want**, while so many people are in **need**. May I be mindful of those who lack basic necessities. Stir in me the needed motivation to contribute to their wellbeing, not just out of my excess, but in a way that requires a sacrifice. Amen.

Portiuncula Meeting December 11th

On a very hot, sticky summers day, Dorothy, Nettie, Rosemary, Bryan, Raechel and Val, with Maranu who joined us by zoom from St. Isaac's, met at Rosemary and Bryans beautiful home, accompanied by their delightful black cat who took an interest in why we were there. Initially we were reminded of those who were unable to come, and caught up with what had happened to each of us since our last meeting.

After sharing our Franciscan journey since we last met Dorothy introduced the book , Franciscan Footprints by Sister Helen Julian, looking at how Franciscans live out their lives in practical ways of serving, and she in particular focused on Chapter 5 introducing Luchesis and Buonadonna a married couple, probably the first Third Order members who lived a life serving the poor and who were admitted by Francis as the first couple. We then turned to our own time and shared the life of two of our First Order, Both now not with us but their influence continues to inspire. – Sister Ruth CSF and Brother Colin Wilfred SSF, both of them showing by there lives how they cared with love, social care and justice in the community.

We reflected on the questions at the end of that chapter, and how we personally respond in our own lives.

The group were enthralled and looking forward to owning a copy which has been gifted to members.

We watched the Video, 'Walking with Indigenous Brothers and Sisters' put together by members of our own Third Order, gifted to us as members, and we hope to a wider audience, a powerful presentation of walking together recognising our need to care for our planet and one another and to listen to our indigenous brothers and sisters working together in unity in the world.

We followed this by sharing the Eucharist together.

Following a wholesome and delicious lunch together, we looked at possible dates for meetings in 2022.

As details of each meeting at confirmed, you will be advised accordingly, but please put these dates in your diary meanwhile.

Bryan Carey

Portiuncula Meeting January 27th

A small group met at Dorothy Brooker's home on Thursday 27th January 2022. The meeting was held from 11am till 3pm. It was great to be able to gather again as an area and those who were not present were held in prayer and a detailed outline of meeting was sent by email afterwards.

Dorothy welcomed Maranu who was in Napier for a few days leaving her St Isaacs, Opononi duties to Bryan and Rosemary Carey who made the journey to the Hokianga from Hawkes Bay.

Portiuncula's Chaplain Dorothy invited Sarah to speak about post formation lifelong learning. We began with sharing a little of our faith journey post formation and on discussion found just how many years each person had been professed and what amazing stories they could share with each other and how inspirational a newly professed tertiary could find these stories.

A shared lunch was followed by a time of looking forward to the year and how we can each live out our Franciscan life by looking at ways we can find a balance between prayer and work. The group discussion was relaxed, and everyone contributed.

The meeting concluded with a Eucharist.

Meeting dates for 2022:

- Saturday, 6th. March, 10-3pm. at Waipawa.
- Saturday, 7th. May at Palmerston North.
- Saturday, 9th. July at Bryan and Rosemary's.
- Wednesday, 10th. August, 5.00pm Transitus of St. Clare. Evening
- Friday 23rd. – Sunday 25th. September, Convocation at Waikanae.
- Monday, 3rd. October, 5.00pm Transitus of St. Francis.
- Saturday, 3rd. December TBA.

The programme for 2022 will include

Further exploration and discussion of the core values of TSSF

The 4 Jeff Golliher papers will be printed so all of the area can have a copy of "Franciscan forms of Service. Hopeful reflections in a perilous time". The plan is that everyone in Portiuncula will be able to read, discuss and focus on the papers before Convocation.

Four quiet days are to be held throughout the year by Dorothy Brooker and Erice Fairbrother:

Dates 19th March @Waiapu Cathedral, Napier

11th June @St Matthew's Hastings

3rd September @ Waipukurau

19th November @ Waiapu Cathedral

Everyone welcome to attend

Sarah Hart

Report from Gubbio/Wellington Area:

There was rejoicing for the Gubbio group at the end of January when Margaret Poynton, recently returned from missionary work in PNG, was professed alongside three postulants, Ingrid Vleig from Palmerston North, Karen Lundie from Masterton and Sarah Askey from Wellington who were all Noviced. What a day! And just two months earlier, Jai Kemp from Upper Hutt was also Noviced! In addition, our group has welcomed Ava Gardner who now lives in Palmerston North. Margaret is slowly regaining her energy after a bout of Covid and was delighted to be given Ruth Martin's profession cross. With masks on and distancing observed – and no morning tea or lunch – our large group celebrated the Eucharist and studied Chapter 9 – Work, of Robyn Parkin's *Reflections on the Journey*.

Some of our reflections included:

We show our attitudes at work by our commitment to others; our humility, love and joy; being prepared to perform tasks we may not wish to do; remembering that, whatever colour or creed we are, God created humanity; remembering that people love to be listened to.

Becoming a humble leader includes being able to empower others, respect those in power and listen patiently.

We paused a little to remember the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 'Arch', who was also a tertiary and Franciscan model. We were very lucky indeed to be able to proceed with our meeting with Brother Omicron just around the corner and hope to be able to meet again after a couple of months or so.

Rosemary Jamieson

Left to right

Bill Atkin, NC for
Ingrid Vleig; Jenny
Barns, NC for Sarah
Askey; Karen
Lundie with NC
Maggie Smith and
Margaret Poynton
with presenter
Rosemary
Jamieson.
Margaret's NC was
Anne Moody.



Companions Corner

Welcome to the Companions who have got back in touch with me. This is your page or extra pages if you want in the future! Please send me your comments or stories of your journeys, etc.

If you know of other Companions who would like to have more contact with others please share this newsletter with them and ask them to be put in touch with me so I can put them on the mailing list.

May we be mindful and aware of God's presence in our lives, and may that light be shared with all we meet. Amen



Companions promise to be a faithful Companion to all of Creation and its Creator, and in particular to the Sisters and Brothers of the Society of Saint Francis?

Companions promise to pray for them, holding their communities, their daily lives, and all those with whom they come into contact, in the all-encompassing Love of God?

Companions continue to find ways to share the unity, love, joy and life which God holds out to us in Christ, just as Francis did?

Hoodies For Sale

Spare hoodies from recent order - 1 x M, 1 x L, 3 x XL, 1 x 2XL

\$35 each + \$8 postage

Please contact Pip Colgan pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz ph: 027 459 6433

Book Review.

“Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from Saint Francis”

by Murray Bodo, OFM, published 2018.

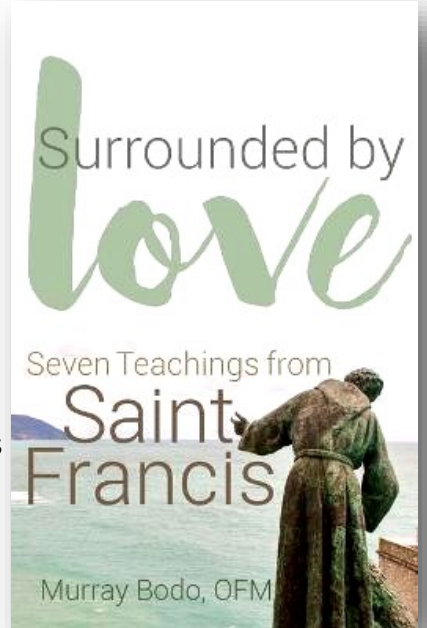
It feels strange to be doing a review of a book which I have not yet finished reading, but there is something quite topical in the third chapter of this book which is worth reading in our current situation. The chapters cover the wonder of the incarnation, evangelical poverty, living the gospel, repairing God’s house, making peace, God in all of creation and the joy of praising and serving God. The final chapter is “the

teaching of teachings – Love.” Each chapter includes some anecdotes from the life of St Francis and discussion of what each charism may look like in our 21st century life. The chapters end with a number of quotes to ponder from early writings by St Francis and others.

Today I have read the third chapter “Live the Gospel”. The chapter begins by looking at the uncomfortable juxtaposition of the incarnation and the cross; hardship and negative issues, beauty and lightness. Part way through the chapter Bodo talks about truth, false truth, lies and speaking as if something is true even if we are uncertain or have no real proof that it is true. He says:

“(This) is a dangerous practice. It can lead to thinking and acting as if careless, unkind, and untrue statements about others that reinforce our own prejudices and fears somehow absolves us from the discipline of discerning truth from falsehood and give us free reign to say anything we want about someone, whether or not we know that it is true.” (p32)

Later in the chapter he discusses “fake news” and disinformation; why it spreads and seems plausible; why it is dangerous and how we can respond in a Franciscan way. This section ends with an adaptation of the Prayer of St



Francis written by Pope Francis for World Communications Day, May 13, 2018. It strikes me as a prayer that may guide us to a truly Franciscan response to situations we find ourselves in today.

"Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognise the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world.

*Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.*

Amen."

Marion Fairbrass, tssf.

"I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom." *Rosa Parks*

"Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are." *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Consider a retreat at St Isaac's this year?

Oh dear who is this old girl!



It is me, with Maranu following me as I walked the labyrinth.

It is part of the wonderful last six days I spent at St Isaac's Retreat House.

Founded in 1974 by Rev Clementina Gordon and was established in 1982 as an ecumenical Christian Trust. Clem was inspired by the writing and teaching of St Isaac of Syria, who lived in the 7th century. He was a hermit and a profound theologian of prayer. Some of his writings may be found in the library. When Clem's health began to fail, the Sisters of the Love of God (SLG), an Anglican Contemplative Community in Oxford, UK, were invited to live, work and worship here. The Sisters returned to the UK in 2006. Since then Sr. Anne SLG has served as warden, followed by Steve and Andrea Leadbetter, Rev Eru and Eliza Wright and Rev's Oenone Woodhams and Anne Priestley.

The current Warden/Kaitiaki is Maranu Gascoigne (TSSF). St. Isaac's is primarily a place of prayer.

Morning (at 9.30 a.m.) and Evening (at 5.30p.m.) prayer are said daily in the chapel. I chose to go each day, but there is no compulsion.

It is a place of quiet, because it is in silence that we believe we can most easily hear God speaking in the depth of us, and that is prayer.

I had thought I would have a silent retreat, but I learnt that for me, I needed to be waited on for total silence! I had what I called a slow down retreat,

attending prayers, Eucharist on Sunday, presided by Oenone who was visiting, and on Wednesday by myself. I used a new Franciscan book, which Maranu reviewed in a recent TAU - "Franciscan Footprints" as my guide. It was great. Do I have the answers no! But God blessed me throughout the days.



On the property you will find a number of places to pause and be found by God. There are walks through the bush - not tackled by myself! and a walk through the pine trees beyond the Guest House with the Stations of the Cross. It was certainly different from the first time I visited, but still a place of reaffirming my faith and understanding, and some wonderful places to just sit and be.

Or to contemplate Deidre Airey's wonderful Stations of the Cross.

Deirdre Q.S.M., MBChB.(1926 - 2002) was the

local doctor in Coromandel for 25 years. Inspired by her friend Barry Brickell she started working in clay to express her interest in religious art. Her relief tiles were formed from terracotta (earthenware) clay, prepared and wood-fired at Driving Creek Potteries.



You arrive and are greeted by Maranu - everything is there for you. Yes, I did take some food for my silly gut, but lots were provided. The cost – koha, what you can afford. You can pay either directly into the account or put in an envelope, which is passed to the accountant.

Think about having a visit, a time to just be with God - you will be truly blessed.

Anne Moody TSSF

Labyrinth Prayer For The Journey

by Alice Baird

Alone in Your sight
at the labyrinth's mouth I stand:
let it swallow me
as I enter here the circle,

*enter with humility,
enter with penitence,
enter with grace,*

this path to what is holy,
sacred centre,
Spirit of God.

At each turn let fall my sins,

*fall from my heart,
fall from my mind,
fall from my anguished soul:*

I here abandon them.
Lord, the way to You is neither
straight

nor easily discerned—
I turn and turn again,

*turn from my desires,
turn from grief,
turn from guilt.*

There are times I wander,
almost aimlessly,
and times I think that I am
almost close to finding You,

*close to Your mercy,
close to Your mind,
close to Your will,*

and then I turn again, away.
Walk with me, Lord, walk with me
along these paths,
away from sin, towards the center,

*center of knowing,
center of believing,
center of eternal love.*

Here let me linger
in the heart of the Mystical Rose
before You send me out again
on a new journey,

*journey of faith,
journey of hope,
journey of love,*

where at every turn
I may follow in Your gentle way,
and turn, ever and again, to You:

*inspired,
healed,
renewed.*

Then, send me out into the world
in peace, to love You, Lord,
with gladness, and to follow You
with singleness of heart.

By Alice Baird
From the Franciscan
Times Advent 2021



A quote from 'Care for Creation'...

Francis' Canticle reminds us that we are not called to relate to a God without a world. To love this God we must also love what God loves.

The beauty of the present moment expresses the perfection of the eternal; however, beauty is revealed when we humans strive to make the right choices that correspond to a God who is infinite love... My moral loving involves my relationship to all beings which surround me and my efforts to strengthen and enhance their mutuality...relationship is the key to the beauty of the universe.

Since all reality is good, then my relationships with others human and non-human, ought to promote goodness... When we act justly and love rightly, when we treat things with the utmost dignity according to their inherent goodness realising each unique thing is singularly wanted and loved by God, then we help promote the harmony of Goodness.

This is a harmony of a diverse and created order in which the whole of creation gives glory and praise to God, the infinite, loving Creator . Creation is charged with the goodness of God and, even in eternal life creation will sing the praises and glory of God.

(p.93-93. Delio, Warner, Wood)



Franciscan Aid & Franciscan International

Franciscans International (FI) is a non-profit, international non-governmental human rights organisation established in 1989.

Its staff consists of professionals of diverse backgrounds working to translate grassroots voices in human rights advocacy action at the United Nations level. Franciscans International seeks to promote and protect human rights and environmental justice.

Franciscan Aid ; Embracing Poverty
Helping the poorest peoples of the developing world.

How does Franciscan Aid Work?

Franciscan Aid is the family charity of the TSSF.

Franciscan Aid works through Franciscans on the ground across the developing world to relieve poverty and advance education in the world's poorest countries when the needs may not be covered by agencies.

The needs of individuals and organisations are put forward by Franciscans of the First and Third Orders to the Trustees of Franciscan Aid. The effect of a grant is monitored by the sponsoring Franciscan locally directly or through a trusted source, and by the Trustees through reports back.

FA is entirely funded by tertiaries, managed by tertiaries and monitored by First and Third Order Franciscans.

Read more about what work has been happening and how you could help...

<https://www.tssf.org.nz/franciscan-aid.html>

<https://www.tssf.org.nz/page/franciscans-international.html>