



TAU May 2024

Third Order Society of St Francis, Province of the Pacific

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Visit to Solomon Islands

In the middle of April, Sarah Hart, Pip Colgan and I set out on our Franciscan journey to Solomon Islands. We set out with the primary goal of re-establishing and rebuilding relationships. This was on two main axes:

- between the Aotearoa and Melanesia regions of our TSSF Province of the Pacific, and
- encouraging relationships between the Franciscan First and Third Orders in Solomon Islands.



Daisy, Sarah, Jaimie (daughter), Peter, Jimmy and 2 of Daisy's nieces . Photo: Pip

This was the first trip from New Zealand to Solomons since well before covid - it had been eight years - so it was definitely timely in that sense. On the other hand, our timing was a little off...in that the dates we were there for ended up being in the lead-in to the Solomon Islands General Election when most people return to their home villages to vote! Nonetheless, there were some great opportunities to establish and re-establish relationships. This was coupled with the promise that we would make a return visit and connect with some local Area chapter meetings in 2025.

In terms of relationships, it was significant being there at the same time as Br Christopher John, the SSF Minister General. Chris was there meeting with the First Order Brothers and also spent some time with us, including an overnight trip to Hautambu where the training friary is located. We gathered several times, formally and informally, at Patteson House - the Friary in Honiara - with both First and Third Order members and that was such a blessing. We shared in songs and worship, meals and cuppas, story and wi-fi! Similarly, we connected with some key office-holders including: Anthony Maelasi, the Regional Minister; Jimmy Maeigoa, the Honiara Convenor; Br Worrick, the SSF Minister Provincial; Sr Catherine Rosa, from the Christian Care Centre; and, Leonard Dawea, the Archbishop of Melanesia.

In addition to rekindling some older relationships, it felt important to cement current ones and look to how we might work together in future. All in all, the trip felt providential and we were well blessed by our time there; hopefully that was the experience for our Melanesian counterparts, too! We look forward to making the return trip next year and continuing in our Franciscan relationships and journey across our Province.

Peter Bargh Minister Provincial

Pip Colgan picks up

We were welcomed at Patteson House the day of our arrival with dinner to which had been invited Third Order bothers and sisters as well.

In the big gathering / dining area a long table had been laid with a huge spread.

After we were welcomed and prayers were said, we were invited to start the meal by helping ourselves with the rest of the Third Order, all while the First Order brothers sang wonderful harmonised chants and songs.

By 6.45 the next morning we were walking down the hill from our lodgings at the St Agnes Mothers Union Transit House, run by women for (mostly) women, to Patteson House. Here we were picked up by the Franciscans' truck for our trip west along the coast to La Verna Friary at Hautambu. We took with us many tins of flaked white fish and two sacks of rice as a koha to the friary.



Sarah, Sr Catherine Rosa, Pip. Photo: Pip Colgan

The road was absolutely diabolical. There were enormous potholes everywhere and driving to avoid them wherever possible involved swerving from one side of the road to the other and going very, very slowly for much of the way.

About 2/3 of the way to Hautambu, we turned inland to go to the Bishop Patteson Theological College at Kohimarama. The place is so named, as it has been funded by the Melanesian trust from Auckland based at Kohimarama. Peter had taught there 10 years ago. I was really delighted to meet up with Robert Santa, who had been part of Juniper Forest for the last three or four years while he studied at St John's College.

Robert took us round the campus and then a short distance to Tabalia where the Melanesian Brotherhood (Anglican) has their headquarters and from where they run indigenous studies and training for their Brothers. Within the beautiful grounds is a graveyard with a large memorial to the seven martyred men from the Melanesian Brotherhood. One of them was Robert's first cousin.

La Verna Friary is sited on the top of a hill, surrounded by bush / jungle. It is lush and beautiful and from up there one can not only see the sea, but hear the waves crashing on the beach. We felt very honoured to be invited to stay there. Unfortunately about 80% of the Brothers had travelled back to their home villages where they have to go to vote, but we were warmly welcomed by the 10 or so remaining Brothers.

Travelling back to Honiara the following day, it was impossible to miss the election fever. All along the roads and in every village crowds of people were cheering and waving and chanting for their candidate.

One evening we felt incredibly honoured to be invited to dinner at Jimmy and Daisy Maeigoa's home. Daisy made a really delicious traditional Solomon Island dinner cooked over hot stones heated by fire.

Daisy told us about her work with the Care Centre in town - working with women and their children escaping from domestic violence. (This links in with CCC and Sr Rosa, but is not the same organisation.) She is in charge of the finances and applying for grants, but she also does hands-on work with the children when she is able.

We had a wonderful meeting with some of the Third Order members. We shared stories and talked about how things were going for them. We had brought with us 100 copies of a beautiful little booklet, *Reflections 2024* which Sarah and Maranu had worked hard to put together. It is a series of six reflections based on the writing of Jeff Gollhier but broken down into less academic language. Sarah led our meeting through the reflection on weaving and they were delighted as they could immediately see how it related to their lives and their communities, and in fact, all of our communities.

Our final dinner was a farewell hosted by the brothers at Patteson House with local TSSF as well. Again, there was a large feast prepared for us.

After we'd eaten, we gave them some Franciscan books we'd brought from New Zealand. There was singing and speeches and sharing. It was now that they told us about how they'd worried about us going to Hautambu. Would we cope with the road and the truck? When we got to Hautambu would we cope with possibly no electricity and definitely no running water? Of course we did!



Sarah and Jimmy on the truck to Hautambu. Photo:Pip Colgan



Sarah and Pip's bedroom at La Verna Friary



Wi-fi at la Br Christopher John at Hautambu



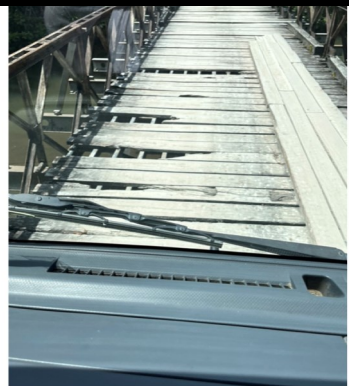
Patteson House - Choosing Franciscan books donated by Juniper Forest



Dinner at Patteson House



Care Centre Family Accommodation, 2016.



Bridges have to be fixed by locals

Christian Care Centre Honiara April 2024

It has been both inspiring and upsetting to visit the Sisters of the Church, an Anglican religious order, at the Christian Care Centre, East of Honiara.

When I visited with our then Minister Provincial John Heberton in 2010, we were humbled by the dedicated service of the Sisters to the women and children who were escaping violence in their homes. The Centre buildings were funded by Australian and New Zealand Aid, opened by Dame Silvia Cartwright; a second building was added to provide shelter for young women and a school was built and opened in 2008.



Chapel, Honiara. Photo :Sarah Hart

It all looked impressive, but the Sisters explained that they had little funding to pay for food and fuel to operate the Centre. It was the only facility in Melanesia at that time to provide residential care for victims of family violence. The Sisters themselves lived in simple huts offering little protection in bad weather. The Centre site was also under threat by rising sea levels with the area being both low lying and coastal.

In August 2016 I revisited the Centre with Blair Matheson, attending the Melanesian Regional Chapter. The Sisters still lived in their substandard houses and the Centre was struggling with low funds and high need. What was wonderful to hear and see was the support given by local TSSF and SSF. The Third Order members sourced and funded materials for repairs. Smashed doors and broken locks needed to be repaired quickly and repeatedly. The Brothers from Patteson House who were ordained traveled to the Centre to celebrate Eucharist for the Sisters and local community, in a chapel just outside the security fence of the Centre. The school, repainted by a Melbourne church group. The classrooms were ready and waiting for students. Finding teachers was a problem though and teaching resources limited.

In April 2024, I found myself back in Honiara, part of a reconnecting visit with our Minister Provincial Peter and Assistant Minister Provincial Pip.

I made a special request that we visit the Christian Care Centre and transport had been arranged.

What we had not anticipated was that the road into the Centre was destroyed earlier by flooding. An onsite visit was not possible. The Sisters walk to the main road when they need to resources, carrying everything back by hand. The good news was that Sister Rosa Catherine was expected to be in Honiara. We were invited to meet her. What an absolute inspiration to meet and hear about the work and ministry of the sisters of the Church and their team. While we waited to meet Sister Rosa, we were welcomed by Florence, the project manager for the Centre. Florence, a former policewoman, told us about all the improvements and changes that had taken place since our last visit. The Sisters, at last, had a new accommodation block, only recently completed and opened. Security fencing had been upgraded. An ablutions block had been built with new toilets for the children.

Classrooms now provide education for local children as well as the children in residence. This was essential as with the road impassable the children could not get to their schools. Two of the Sisters were teaching a minimum of two hours a day. The Sisters, with support from the SSF Brothers, were running their first course for men who were perpetrating the violence, aiming to break the cycle of violence in the home and reestablishing a safe family environment. Brother Worrick was helping Sister Rosa run the first course. Twenty-eight men are attending. It has had much positive feedback. The Victims don't want to press charges as they would prefer to keep their men out of prison, and at home peacefully with their family.

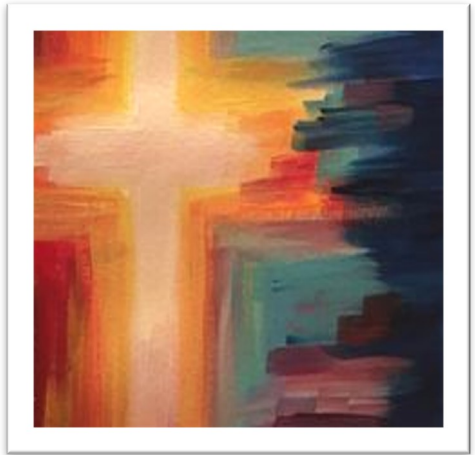
When we met Sister Rosa Catherine, we were blown away by her energy and courage. She often stands in front of an angry violent husband protecting his family and the other Sisters. She is an amazing woman, and we heard her excitement and delight when she was able to recount the saga of the washed-out access road. She successfully applied for initial funding and soon rebuilding begins.

Thank you to all who gave resources and donations, gratefully received by Sister Rosa Catherine.

Lifelong Post Formation Support, Sarah Hart

New Postulants and Novices

This year we have welcomed several new Postulants: Michael Crawford-Butler and Sarah Crawford-Butler (Gubbio), Anna Clare, Rose Isbell and Len Pierce (San Damiano). We pray for them as they journey through this next stage of discernment.



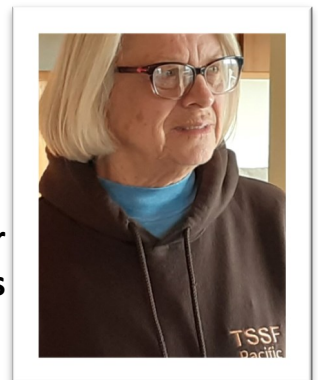
There are also three new Novices: Shaun Killerby (Gubbio), Sarah Pidgeon (Juniper Forest) and Graeme Sykes (Kings Companions). We pray for them as they undertake the Initial Formation Studies as part of the next stage of discernment of a call to TSSF. May it be a time of rich blessing and clarity of direction for each of them.

Reminder to Novice Counsellors:

I almost feel I don't have to say this – you will know what is coming! Please, please, remember to keep the Record Sheet up to date for each person you are accompanying at present, and please flick me and the relevant Area Chaplain a brief email when you have received the Quarterly Report in June. I appreciate also being kept up to date on what Study has been completed.

Thank you for the love and care you show as you accompany those discerning a call to the Order.

**Provincial Formation Director
Marion Fairbrass**



Prayerful Presence at General Synod



This is where our Three Tikanga Church meet to make decisions for the Church and who we are as a Church.

We as Franciscans with other religious communities have been involved with offering a prayer presence at General Synod off and on for several years.

This year General Synod is in Hawke's Bay and Erice Fairbrother OSB and Dorothy Brooker tssf will be the Religious Order presence as General Synod meets, offering a rhythm of prayer as well offering a place where people can come and have time out from the discussions, or a place when something that has been difficult, they can come and ask for prayer.

The prayer presence is larger than the room at General Synod as the sisters of the Sacred Name in Christchurch and Sister Anne SLG will offer prayer during this week as well.

I am conscious that General Synod may have finished before you receive and read the next *Tau*. However, as Franciscans throughout Aotearoa – please, I also ask that you continue to pray for decisions that have been made.

Why a prayer presence?

A prayer presence is not unusual. During the Lambeth Conference the many religious orders throughout the United Kingdom and some from other places are very visible as they offer prayer for the Bishops present as well as the decisions made. Provincial Synods also have in different places had the religious orders in their country offering prayer during their gatherings.

In the past the First Order tssf were often asked to be at General Synod as that prayer presence, perhaps as Chaplain. We as tssf need to continue to be visible and seen as a people who live under a Rule of Life with a yearly renewal of Vows to live in the spirit of Francis and Clare, and for us to remember that our principles call us to be people of prayer. This is also true of other religious groups. Oblates of the Community of the Sacred Name, Oblates of St Benedict. All living under their rule.

Our prayers, as well as the prayers of all our religious orders, as well as the whole church are so important.

Prayer answers concerns if it is prayed for the benefit of all.

Dorothy Brooker, Portiuncula

Margaret of Cortona

This week in our calendar of Franciscan Saints, we remember Margaret of Cortona.

Margaret had a rough beginning to her life. Born into a very poor family, she was only young when her mother died and subsequently a new stepmother turned her out of the house.

Having few options, she became the mistress of a nobleman and bore him a son, but he would not marry her. The nobleman was murdered and Margaret's father turned her away when she tried to return to her home.

Margaret considered her situation a punishment for her sins. She had heard of the compassion of the Franciscan Friars and made her way to Cortona. After time she was admitted as a Franciscan Tertiary, but rumours of her previous life were slow to die away. She joined with other women to establish a nursing community, caring for the sick and poor. Margaret heard God call to her, saying, *"show now that thou art converted; call others to repentance The graces I have bestowed on thee are not meant for thee alone."*

As her holiness grew, and as miracles were attributed to her, people came from all over Italy to hear her speak.

I was delighted to see this statue of Saint Margaret when I visited Cortona in 2009. When I read her story and think about her life once converted, it reminds me how completely we are accepted and welcomed by our loving God; how God can accept us as we are and enfold us as we allow ourselves to be transformed.

(Information from Third Order Manual and also from "The Franciscan Saints" by Robert Ellsberg, Franciscan Media 2017)



Provincial Formation Director Marion Fairbrass

Our New Minister General, Taking on the Role from John Hebenton Bishop Michael Twum Darko

This introduction is taken from the Advent 2023 edition of Franciscan Times (the Newsletter of the Province of the Americas). Their Editor John Brockmann writes:



Minister Provincial Rev Michael
Tum Darko

The Revd (Prof) Michael Twum-Darko of Cape Town, Minister Provincial of the African Province, was elected Minister General of TSSF on September 8. Revd Twum-Darko is a non-stipendiary priest of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town and has been in God's ministry for more than twenty-two years, most recently at the Anglican Church of the Holy Redeemer, Sea Point Diocese of Cape Town. You can see him giving a recent sermon on their Facebook page. In 2020 he co-authored a book about good vs. evil, *Understanding Spiritual Warfare*, that is available on Amazon. (<https://a.co/d/98167rZ>).

Professor Michael Twum-Darko is also Acting Head of the Department of Business and Management Sciences and Coordinator of Postgraduate Research at the Graduate Centre for Management, Cape Peninsula University of Technology. In this capacity, he has done research in Information Systems.

A current project he is working on is the 'Impact of digitalization on municipal services and local economic development.' In 2011 he authored a book, *The Role of Information Systems in Legislation-led Reform: A Case Study of the New Municipal Rates Acts of South Africa*.

It is available on Amazon <https://a.co/cl/daDnLdz>.

Our New Bishop Protector

Bishop Waitohiariki

Introduction to Bishop Wai:

She was ordained deacon in 2013 and priest in 2014 by Bishop Muru Walters at the Church of Te Heparā Pai in Masterton.

Archdeacon Waitohiariki Quayle was appointed Bishop of Te Ūpoko o Te Ika in 2019.



Right Rev Quayle said in a *Herald* article in 2019 that she was committed to addressing the major issues affecting whānau in her region, including

housing and youth suicide rates.

"A lot of kids are lost, they don't have a friend or someone to turn to. The church could be there for them, and by the church I mean people, we could be there," she said.

"The image I use is of the tamariki on the waka. The family can be the stabilising influence on one side of the canoe and the church can be on the other."



Bishop Wai 2019 Photo: *Herald*

Bishop Wai affiliates to Ngāti Kahungunu and Whakatohea.

Nau mai, haere mai Bishop Wai

What First Step can I Take Today?

The Diary that follows on page 15 was given by Margaret tssf, the Quaker wife of Rev Robert Fulton tssf, to Richard Roberts, tssf, for wider sharing.

The daily reflection is to be used in conjunction with:

A PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF ST FRANCIS

***Lord, please make me/us into an/
instrument/s/channel/s of Your Peace,
Where there is hatred, let me/us put love.
Where is injury, let me/us bring a pardon - full and complete.***

Where there is darkness, let me/us put light.

Where there is despair, let me/us put hope.

Where there is error, let me/us bring truth.

Where is sorrow and pain, let me/us bring healing and joy.

Where there is discord, let me/us bring harmony.

Where there is doubt, let me/us put faith.

***O loving Master,
please grant that I/we may seek
not so much to be consoled as to console,
nor to be understood as to understand,
nor even, to be loved as to love all mankind.***

For it is in giving that we receive.

In forgiving that we are forgiven,

In losing ourselves that we find,

And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

AMEN

First published anonymously, in French, Paris 1912

Su	<p>St Francis used the greeting: “God give you Peace.” Does God give me peace in my heart? Is there some part of my life which most needs reconciliation and forgiveness by being acknowledged in my prayer? If so what first step can I take today?</p>
Mo	<p>Is there a personal relationship in my life that stands unreconciled? Does it wait for my willingness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To be forgiven by God b) To forgive myself c) To be forgiven by someone else d) To forgive someone else e) To be willing to be the one to take the first step ... and if so, <p>What first step can I take today?</p>
Tu	<p>Is there a relationship or situation close to me which is unreconciled for lack of a peacemaker? Does it wait for me to take the risk of getting caught in the middle? And if so, what first step can I take today?</p>
We	<p>Are there people of peace whose courageous stand on a vital issue I admire? Am I praying for them? Have I let them know they have my support? By a letter? A phone call? A gift? And if not, what first step can I take today?</p>
Th	<p>Are there any who claim to be people of peace with whose stand on vital issues I strongly disagree? Am I praying for them? Have I let them know in truth and love my own concern in the issue? And if not, what first step can I take today?</p>
Fr	<p>Are there whole categories of people, by nation, colour, class or political stance etc. towards whom I feel fear (out of ignorance?), anger, resentment or indignation? And if so, what first step towards understanding can I take today?</p>
Sa	<p>Is there someone representing me, my locality or my country in the political process? Am I praying for him or her? How can I express my concerns? How can I become involved? What first step can I take today?</p>

Why I am a Franciscan

Tēnā koutou

I whānau mai au i Whanganui

I tipu ake au i Te Aroha

Ko Te Aroha te maunga

Ko Whanganui te awa

Ko Shaun Killerby tōku ingoa

He kaitohutohu tuakana ahau mo Te

Kaitiaki Taiao a Te Whare Pāremata

Kia ora tātou katoa

I am a novice Franciscan: following Christ with a Franciscan spirituality, my personal rule shaped by my individual gifts and background.

Castlecliff Annual Cleanup, Principles in Practice. Photo: Shaun Killerby

My childhood was in the Whanganui Bahá'í community in the late 60s and early 70s, my Dad (from Yorkshire) a member of the Men of the Trees. Mum managed our family garden centre. We moved to Te Aroha when I was eight, living in a caravan for a year, then a garage while building a house, starting a market garden and another garden centre. The good life. I then studied geography, politics, religion, and ethics at Waikato University, before working as a forestry social scientist.

Though I was aware of God, I lived from selfish ambition. I hit 'rock bottom' in 1997, losing almost everything. Life began anew in Christchurch April 1998. During a time of desolate reflection, God's Spirit brought to my mind Genesis 1:1-5. I suddenly realized I had been living in darkness and striving for numbness, but God continues to will light and order, creating life where there was none. I started reading the Gospels, attending an Open Brethren chapel for instruction, being baptized June 1998.

I was blessed with a discipleship path.

1. Healthy nurture – two years in Rotorua learning Christ and the value of spiritual disciplines.
2. Learning healthy 'autonomy' – a year at Bible College.
3. Learning healthy teamwork – several years as a Bible teacher and missions deacon back in Rotorua.



4. Learning healthy contribution – several years as a missionary in a faith ministry in Tokoroa.

The mission team moved to Wellington when the Tokoroa rehab closed in 2007.

I served in home groups, became an advisor to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, met Karen, and we married in 2012. We thank God for every new day and every blessing, serving together.



Karen and Shaun, Whanganui, 2023 Photo: Shaun Killerby

Over the years I experienced apathy and even hostility to environmental matters in many evangelical churches – such concern seen as a distraction or even idolatry. This did not resonate with my heart. Investigating this dissonance through study, I resonated with Edward Brown’s writing in *Our Father’s world: Mobilizing the Church to care for Creation*. Brown stated that sin affects every way people relate: to God, ourselves, other people, and the natural world. The Gospel can and should address every aspect of our relating, including practical care for this world through reduced selfishness, greed, and exploitation.

Visiting intentional communities around Aotearoa, Karen and I were inspired by liturgical life. We became Anglicans and I inquired about joining the TSSF. For me the Franciscan Order embraces two important truths: the need to be intentional in our growth as disciples; and the need to live out the Gospel in all areas of life today.

Peace, joy and wise action

Novice Shaun Killerby, Gubbio

Companions' Corner

Dear Fellow Companions,

haere, haere, haere mai.

You are most welcome to submit any piece that expresses where you are in your journey, as a group or as individuals.

We welcome your contributions.

Please send your writing, scripture, or prayers for inclusion in *Tau*, to

penelope.kennett@gmail.com

Nga mihi nui **Penny Kennett, Provincial Newsletter Editor**



Tui in Karen and Shaun's garden, 2023:Photo Shaun Killerby

Tertiaries in Profile: Margaret Poynton

Discovering Franciscans While on Missionary Service.

During my second year of my first posting to Papua New Guinea I found myself seconded to the Anglican Theological College in Popondetta on the Northern Coast of PNG. A number of factors collided. Cross cultural misunderstanding and subsequent conflict took its toll until one afternoon in September I arrived at the Friary with tears rolling down my face. I said “I need somewhere to stay for three or four nights”. A room was made ready. As I rested in the quiet, I heard a voice, no - not one voice, many voices speaking as one, coming from the chapel, quietly singing and speaking to someone unseen yet present. It was the most beautiful thing I have ever heard.

The next day I received a visit, from the Minister Provincial “What do you need?” “Just someone to talk to each day” I answered. “Who other than me?” He asked. So, until the end of the year I joined in the Friary routines of worship and prayer, community work, as well as some liaison work for the new Archbishop.

When the call came to return briefly to the place I had left so hastily, one of the Brothers accompanied me. As we walked, I told him of the conflict, the invasion some months ago, the fear that kept me company each day and night. There was no inquisition, no questioning, no search for background, just acceptance. On Sunday after Evening Prayer the Brothers prayed and anointed me for healing, healing from the fear, from the depression. Such was their compassion and hospitality. I heard myself saying to myself I don’t want to be this angry person any more.

On the eve of the feast of St Francis, as usual I spent time in quietness and prayer.



Margaret Poynton, Photo: Penny

As I sat memories long forgotten returned, memories of the time where the Lord had shown me the biblical references to God as a husband.

And so it was that on St Francis Day after the morning Eucharist I went in search of the ring. The ring that had been worn on the right hand to remind me that my earthly marriages were over. Quietly in the Chapel I made a commitment and placed the ring on my left hand, accepting the invitation almost 25 years ago. I wondered what it might mean to be 'married' to Jesus my life-long companion and friend... What would it mean until at death do us meet...

These two months' retreat and renewal were the inspiration to join one of the Franciscan Order.

Margaret Poynton, Gubbio

Prayer Page

Loving God,

We give thanks for the ministry of all those working in the Solomon Islands to bring peace and justice to the people.

We give thanks for the resources made available for teaching.

We give thanks for those working for the care of creation in our Province.

We give thanks for our Bishop Protector Bishop Wai and pray for her ministry in this country and for our Third Order.

Amen

Blessing of St. Francis

The Lord bless you and keep you.

May He show His face to you and have mercy.

May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.

The Lord bless you.



Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

Dear sisters and brothers, dear friends,

It is a pleasure to share with you our [2023 Annual Report](#). As you know, the past year has been one of transformation for Franciscans International, with a change in Executive Director and the launch of a new regional program in Europe. However, throughout this, we remained focused on the essence of our work: bringing the voices of Franciscans and the marginalized communities they represent to the United Nations. In this report, you will meet some of the Franciscans and other grassroots partners that we work with in Africa, the Americas, and Asia-Pacific. You will also find the important achievements we made together in our mission to promote human dignity and protect our common home. More generally, our Annual Report offers insight into the persistent human rights issues that Franciscans have brought to the United Nations and that deserve our long-term attention and commitment.

I warmly invite you to share this report with your communities and other networks, and I hope that we can continue to build on your support for our common ministry.

With fraternal greetings,

Blair Matheson TSSF

Executive Director

To read this report, click on the underlined link in the first line.

Gubbio Meeting in March 2024

The Gubbio Group had an excellent meeting on Saturday 23 March, gathering for the first time at St John's Trentham.

One of the new Co-Vicars there, the Rev'd Simon Falconer, presided for us, using the Sixth Form from our tssf *Franciscan*

Liturgies and Hymns. We met in the narthex, which fitted us all in, just.

Approximately 20 attended, including several enquirers. Penny Kennett acted in Jenny Barns' place as Chaplain, because Jenny recently had an accident and was then in Kenepuru Hospital recuperating.

Shaun Killerby, a parishioner at St John's, was admitted as a novice and we had three renewals (one in absentia). After lunch, Ailsa Cornell led our discussion. This was based on Chapter five of Helen Julian CSF's *Franciscan Footprints*.

That chapter is entitled "Reflecting the Love of Christ: Social Care, Social Justice". The end of the chapter has some good pointers for reflection, including asking "Who are the royalty of today?", given that several of the early Franciscans were members of royal families and wielded a degree of power.



Shaun's Novicing, with Bill Atkin his Novice Counsellor Photo: Virginia Atkin

Convenor Bill Atkin, Gubbio



St John's, Trentham, Upper Hutt

Gubbio Group Dates for 2024

15 June	St Ronan's ,Eastbourne
27 July	St John's, Trentham
31 August	St Aidan's, Miramar
3 to 6 October	Convocation, Vaughan Park, Auckland
9 November	Quiet Day
20 December	12.15 Eucharist, Cathedral + lunch

Email Jenny Barns (Jennifer.barns@xtra.co.nz) if you would like to join us.

Te Tiriti

This is a really interesting series.

The episodes are super short (six minutes each) but it's pretty powerful/challenging for Pakeha to watch I think

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/land-of-the-long-white-cloud>

What do you think?

Lots of love

**Chaplain H el ene Young,
Kings Companions**



Night Prayer: Invitation to All

This is a recurring meeting, hosted every Monday evening at 7.30pm by Bronwyn Emson, Chapter Rep, Juniper Forest



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96577491352?pwd=YUVVYT0t5OE04N1lZNndKSskF6NVBydz09>

Meeting ID: 965 7749 1352

Passcode: 255912

Two Peoples, One Land

Two peoples, one land,

Three faiths, one root,

One earth, one mother,

One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,

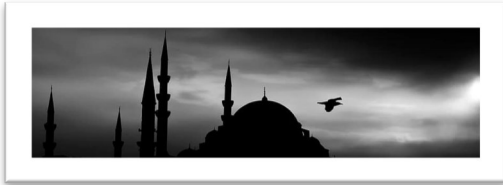
One broken heart, one God.

We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.

May we see the many in the one and the one in the many

May you, Life of all Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences help us to see clearly.

Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace.



Rabbi Sheila Weinberg

Submitted by Bronwyn Emson



The Diversity and Unity Mirrored in our Fingerprints

Remember, God gave us a fingerprint that no one else has, and we leave an imprint that no one else can.

Ephesians 2:10



Remember, God gave us a fingerprint that no one else has, and we leave an imprint that no one else can. Ephesians 2:10

When the United Nations commissioned its intellectual and experiential framework for the Biodiversity Convention, the answer given was that cultural and biological diversity are inextricably linked in the fabric of life (Posey, et.al, 1999, Gollither 1999). The sacred fabric thrives because of its vibrant diversity. The same principle is true for our Order and the whole Society of Saint Francis. We are all part of diverse cultures and ecosystems across the earth. Every member of our Order has special interests or gifts in one or more of our forms of Service. We might pursue these in distinctive and creative ways. All are expressions of diversity within our unity - as was the original vision and intent of St. Francis. Let us remember that just as no two fingerprints are alike, our paths in life are also distinct. We should not be discouraged by the differences we see in others but rather celebrate the diversity that exists. By recognizing and appreciating the unique qualities in ourselves and others, we can foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Find a way to make your imprint on a page and think about the truth that our fingerprints are a testament to our individuality and worth.

Share with each other something that is unique about your finger print and expressed in your witness, life and prayer.

Give thanks in prayer and embrace each other's uniqueness, celebrate the diversity around you, and live out your lives in a way that reflects the beauty of our Creator's design.

Maranu Gasgoine, Kaitiaki, St Isaacs Retreat House

Giving

I have been asked to give you some feedback about the process of giving to tssf. Remember our financial contributions enable us to function as an organization.



There is a \$6000 shortfall in our current Budget. Fortunately, we have savings to cover this. However, the closer we can meet our budget through our donations the better. It currently works out that if each member of tssf gave \$235 per annum it would cover all our costs (i.e. approximately \$20 per month or \$5 per week). This is only a guideline, as your giving is a decision between you and God, and you should only give what you can afford.

We encourage members to set up a Direct Debit to make their contributions. Our bank account is: 38-9014-0214422-00.

Please make sure that the details coming to us include: (1) your surname and initials, (2) 'Donation', and (3) 'tssf.'

Chapter has agreed to make a significant donation each year to Franciscans International. If you would also like to give a specific donation to Franciscans International. Remember to put 'FI' instead of 'tssf' in the particulars.

Finally, on behalf of Chapter I would like to express my thanks to you all for your regular contributions to tssf.

Shalom!

Provincial Aotearoa Treasurer Mike Baker

Franciscans Providing a Prayerful Presence at General Synod



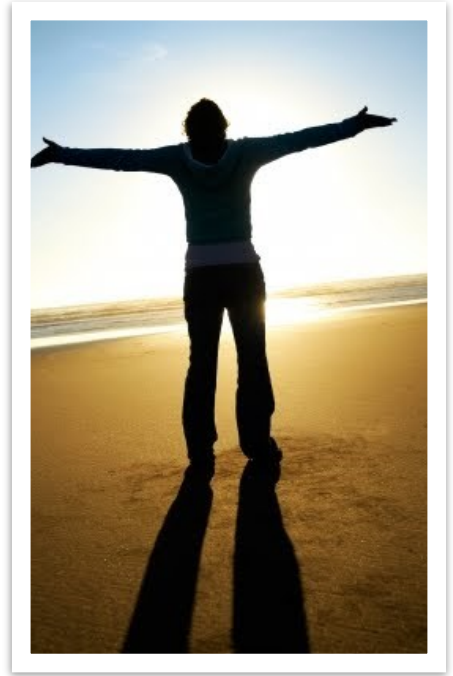
Dorothy, (and Erice Fairbrother two along from her) providing a prayerful presence at General Synod 22.5.24 Photo, Peter Bargh



Dorothy, Our Bishop Protector Bishop Wai and Minister Provincial Peter Bargh

In Appreciation

I cannot thank you as I would
For all you've done for me;
I cannot find the words I should
To tell you fittingly.
Your kindness has meant so much
That only One I know
Can e'er repay a service such
As this one here below.
Therefore to Him I delegate
What I cannot express.
May God repay you - early, late,
For all your kindness.



**By Litho in Italy,
submitted by Hazel Hipkins, Juniper Forest**

Convocation 2024, Vaughan Park, Auckland

Dates and times

Thursday October 3 from 4pm
until Sunday October 6 until
1.30pm.

Theme

The main focus of our
Convocation is Prayer and
Contemplation Leading to
Action.



Our Keynote speaker is Charlie McCarron. Charlie is the new Minister Provincial of the Americas and Blair Matheson, Marion Fairbrass, John Heberton and I heard him speak on a similar topic at IPTOC last year. He will be addressing us on zoom as Jeff Gollither did at the last Convocation and is keen for discussion after his talks on Friday and Saturday mornings.

There will be several wonderful workshops entitled “Pathways to Prayer” such as walking a labyrinth, wilderness wandering, mindful walking, contemplative prayer, painting, icons . . . More to come on this as everything is finalised!

Accommodation

We are staying at Vaughan Park. There are 18 single rooms, 11 twin rooms (22 people) and 16 marae-style beds in the John Priestley meeting room on the lower level.

We have received for a grant from the Auckland Hostel of the Holy Name Trust which is helping to keep the costs down.

Registration costs (which include accommodation, food and Convocation costs such as meeting room hire)

Marae-style, \$260 per person

Single, double rooms, \$368 per person

Rooms will be allocated based on receipt of your registration form.



Transport

You need to allow time to get from the airport to Vaughan Park (and back) so if you plan to fly to and from Auckland please allow at least two hours' travel time prior to 4pm Thursday and after 1.30pm Sunday for your flights. We are not prepared to ask members of Convocation to miss out on parts of the programme to transport others because people have cut their flight times too short. Ubers and taxis are incredibly expensive!

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to come to Convocation. (It helps with our planning.)

If it is tricky for you to download/fill out the registration form, please just answer ALL the questions in an email.

Payment can be in instalments but the total amount is required by 31 August.

If you need assistance with registration payment, please get in touch with Pip.

If you have any questions, please ask!

Looking forward to seeing you in October.



(pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz)

Assistant Minister Provincial Pip Colgan for the Convocation Team

For your Diary

Chapter 2024

1 to 3 October Vaughan Park, Auckland

Convocation 2024

4pm Thursday 3 Oct to 1.30pm Sunday 6 Oct

Vaughan Park

Register with Pip Colgan by 31 August

National Retreat 2025

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, 21 to 23 November

Vaughan Park

Convocation 2027

at El Rancho, Waikanae

Area Retreats

Please let us know the details,
as other members may wish to join you

***Tau's* next issue due mid August 2024**

**Articles, reviews, reports, 500 words max, welcome by
Friday 9th 2024**

Send to Penny Kennett Provincial Newsletter Editor

penelope.kennett@gmail.com

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Our Website-<https://tssf.org.nz/>

**Any changes of address, please email to
Janice Thorne, Membership Secretary, Web Person**

**Please check the website for updated Intercession and
Address lists.**

Contact: Janice Thorne janicethorne@gmail.com