

Franciscan Angles

A Newsletter of Anglican Franciscans in Aotearoa New Zealand

2008 - 2

Brother Brian's Jubilee of Profession

The feast of St Simon and St Jude, October 28th, saw a pleasant gathering of friends and brothers to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Brother Brian's Making of Vows in Profession in the Society of St Francis.

In the early evening the group met in the chapel at Te Ara Hou Village for a festal Eucharist which was a jubilant (of course) and colourful occasion. Professed religious renewed their vows with the retiring Bishop Protector General, Bishop George Connor. The group then moved to a city restaurant for a Chinese banquet.

Cake cutting, speeches, merriment and chatter filled the evening and following the great meal, the cake-eating took place at home for some.

Congratulations Brother Brian, on fifty wonderful years of ministry and brotherhood.



Brother Brian during the service of thanksgiving in the Te Ara Hou Chapel ...



... and cutting the cake at the banquet in town.

Bishop George Retires as Bishop Protector

Bishop George Connor, Bishop of Dunedin tendered his resignation to the First Order Chapters at Stroud in September, taking effect from 8th November 2008. Bishop George has held a variety of bishop protector roles for the past fifteen years. He has been our provincial Deputy Protector and Protector and more latterly has been the Protector General for the Society. He has been, and continues to be, a great supporter of our ministry and way of life and we have appreciated his wise counsel. We are grateful too of the most pleasant support we have enjoyed from Nonie and their family.

While Bishop George is retiring as our protector, he remains in his ministry as Bishop of Dunedin in which we continue to wish him well.

The Most Reverend Roger Herft, Archbishop of Perth, has been appointed by the First Order Chapters as Bishop Protector of the Australia New Zealand Province and also as Protector General of the Society and the Most Reverend David Moxon, Bishop of Waikato, has been appointed by Archbishop Roger as the Deputy Bishop Protector for New Zealand.



Bishop George Connor receives a gift from the New Zealand brothers at the farewell dinner.



Archbishop Roger Herft at the Lambeth Conference.



Archbishop David Moxon seems to be saying to Bishop George "Is it that difficult?"

Religious at the Lambeth Conference

There appeared to be a degree of trepidation among the bishops and their spouses when they arrived at the University of Kent for the Lambeth Conference in July 2008. Was there a smell of schism lingering in the air? Could it be avoided?

The Archbishop of Canterbury made it clear in his welcome that the Conference would not solve the problems of the Anglican Communion. Nearly two hundred had declined his invitation to attend. Another conference, known as GAFCON, had been held in Jerusalem which was attended mainly by those who felt they could not in conscience be at Canterbury mingling with those with whom they had already disagreed over certain issues. A few managed to be at both conferences.

This Lambeth Conference was planned to be different from its predecessors. It would not be making resolutions and setting out policy which the various Provinces in the past tended either to accept, refuse or ignore. This conference was to be a time of pondering the Scriptures prayerfully, of corporate worship, of fellowship and learning from each other about each other in the very varied contexts in which they



Sr Veronica CSC, Solomon Islands, Sr Dorothy CMM, and Sr Martha CMM from Tanzania, at Kent University during the Lambeth Conference 2008

minister, and of intercession and encouragement for each other.

The tone of the conference was set at the very beginning by the retreat of three days in the Cathedral led by the Archbishop. He must have inspired all by his addresses. His prayerfulness and spirituality made a profound impression throughout the conference.



Br Nelson MBH and Br Hartman SSF at Hilfield Friary during the preparation time.

He must have been an example to all of humble, Godly leadership. Any fear that some might have had that he would be too academic was soon set aside. On two occasions the whole conference gave him a long standing ovation.

It was into this setting that the chaplaincy team came, made up of mainly Religious under the leadership of the official chaplain, Winston Halapua, the Polynesian bishop in Auckland. The team contained eight Franciscan friars representing all the provinces of the Society of Saint Francis, six members of the Melanesian Brotherhood with their former English chaplain, a Cowley Father from America, and for some of the time a member of the

(Continued on page 6)

Religious Life Advisory Group Meets in Hamilton

standing l-r
 Fr Martin Davies
 Sr Ann CSN
 Br Brian SSF
 Fr Dr Bill Adams-Smith
 Archbishop David Moxon
 Sr Rosemary Blackwell
 Fr John Hebenton TSSF
 Mother Koleni CSN
 Mrs Valarie Langley
 (Archbishop's Chaplain)

seated
 Revd Dorothy Brooker TSSF
 Sr Anne SLG
 Naomi & Win
 (Abbeyfield Residents)



*During the celebration of the Eucharist,
 Sr Anne SLG received a copy of
 "The Trinity"
 - a reflection of God for these islands of
 Aotearoa and Te Moana Nui a Kiwa -
 for the chapel at St Isaac's Retreat, Opononi.*



Mother Koleni CSN and Sr Rosemary Blackwell, a solitary religious living in Hamilton.

St Francis Celebrations — Woodford House School



Br Brian visited Woodford House School, Havelock North for the celebration of St Franciside. The Chapel is dedicated to St Francis and the art students had painted a copy of the San Damiano Crucifix, shown in the photo on the left.

Hamilton Combined Churches Food Bank Volunteers Lunch



Once again the friary hosted the annual Christmas lunch for the volunteers from the Hamilton Combined Churches Food Bank. A lively group with much merriment.

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Society of the Sacred Mission in Southern Africa. There were two sisters from Tanzania, three Sisters of the Church from Ham Common and the Solomon Islands, two members of the Melanesian Sisterhood, and a member of the Community of All Hallows, Ditchingham, who was the unfailing sacristan. With that lot no bishop or spouse could ignore the existence of Religious in the Anglican Communion.

Nearly all the team met for ten days at the Hilfield Friary in Dorset to prepare for the conference before going to Canterbury. This enabled the team to become a close community and to continue as such throughout the three weeks of the conference. It enabled us not only to pray, talk, rehearse and plan but also to laugh together. The spirit of the team, caring for each other, became very strong.

Associated with the team were helpful cathedral canons from Blackburn and Worcester, who, like traffic cops, directed the movement of the liturgy at the daily sung Eucharist and Evening Prayer, which were held in an enormous marquee, suitable for a circus. And close to the team was the Director of Music, George Weaver, and the vocal and instrumental group who led daily the truly inspiring worship. Together we enjoyed the hospitality of the International Franciscan Study Centre where most of us were accommodated.

For the Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day the team composed the intercessions which they led and also at the communion assisted the bishops with administering the Blessed Sacrament. During the retreat in the cathedral the team members were used for prayer, counselling and confession in one of the chapels and in the crypt.

In the university itself a large room was the prayer centre, suitably furnished for worship and devotion. Here each day there was morning, mid-day and night prayer. Over a hundred came to morning and night prayer sung according to the harmonic custom of the Melanesian Brotherhood. And some people came to the centre for ministry or for meditation and personal prayer. The team itself met each morning for a Bible study on the same passages from St John's Gospel, which the bishops and the spouses were following in their groups, and to plan the day. Many bishops and spouses said how glad they were of our presence.

The conference opened on the first Sunday with a sung Eucharist in the Cathedral at which the Archbishop presided and the Bishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka, preached a challenging sermon. Before the Gospel Melanesians danced up the nave and into the choir to the accompaniment of panpipes carrying a boat

symbolising the spread of the gospel overseas. The conference closed on the last Sunday evening with a sung Eucharist at which the Archbishop of Melanesia presided and Canterbury preached. At the end of the service the President led the chaplaincy team to the chapel commemorating modern martyrs while the names of Melanesian Brothers who were martyred on Guadalcanal were read out by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the cathedral choir sang appropriately. It was a very moving moment.

If there had been a smell of schism when the bishops arrived it had definitely faded by the time they were to leave. Despite differences of opinion on certain matters there was no desire to separate. Much will depend now on the follow-up. If all are determined under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to seek the mind of Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life then breakages can be repaired and barriers broken down between those who were at Lambeth and with those who did not come whether or not they were at GAFCON. Prayer for all must prevail.





Is God Calling You To Be A Franciscan Friar ?

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Franciscan Angles is published by the First Order of the Society of Saint Francis in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Society of Saint Francis is a religious order in the Anglican Communion. It is involved in the contemporary world, seeking to promote unity and reconciliation and in caring for the marginalised. The Society is committed to the spiritual search in the Christian tradition and seeks to follow the way of St Francis of Assisi in humility, love and joy.



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Intercessions

Please pray with us ...

Brothers

Brian
Damian Kenneth
Alfred Boonkong
Bruce-Paul
Christopher-John
Daniel
Donald Campbell
James Andrew
Joseph
Lionel
Nathan-James
Noel-Thomas
William

Companion Brothers

David
Doug

Bishops' Protector

+ Roger Herft & Cheryl
+ David Moxon & Tureti

Vocations to the Religious Life
in New Zealand

A Blast from the Past ...

... out of the archives



*Dinner at Parnell in the early 1980's.
Clockwise from front left—Fr Dennis Browning, Br Leo Anthony, Br James Francis,
Alistair Brockbank, and Br Walter.*



*Br Daniel planting new shrubs
after the friary was moved
onto a new site in
Brighton Road, Parnell.*

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