



# Provincial Circular

Marist Fathers Australian Province

Vol: 2 /2012

## Provincial's Letter

Dear Confreres

On 7-8 March, I attended the CLRI (NSW) annual conference held at Woollli Creek, in Sydney. In all about 140 leaders and team members were present, representing 47 religious congregations. The main guest speaker this year was Dr Richard Gaillardetz, the Joseph McCarthy Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College in the United States. The theme was: Fifty Years after Vatican II: from Memory to Mission. Richard is a layman, married with four sons.

Richard spoke brilliantly of how, before the Council, many of the bishops were pessimistic about any significant renewal of the Church taking place. They believed the curia was too entrenched and powerful. Several things happened to shift this mood of discouragement.

At the opening Mass on October 11, 1962, Pope John XXIII gave an audacious homily that challenged the “prophets of gloom who see

nothing positive in the world today” and invited the assembled members of the Council to “look to the future without fear”. He called for the life of the Church to be brought up to date. His bold words would have shocked those who still saw the Church as a perfect society, that had the answers to every question. Cardinal Ottaviani had been interviewed on Italian television a week earlier saying this would be a ‘Council of condemnation’ of all the evils in the Church and the world. Pope John made it clear a different path would be taken, requiring “the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity”. What beautiful echoes of our Marist insight into living the Gospel.

Other experiences of the Council members helped build a new openness. Because they were seated according to seniority, many bishops from different countries got to know each other and hear new ideas. Masses were celebrated not just in the Tridentine rite, but in others such as Melkite and Ethiopian rites, so the Council saw the “beauty in diversity” of the Church’s liturgy. Various prominent theologians gave evening addresses apart from

the Council itself which helped the bishops in their thinking. At the Council, while 20-minute Latin speeches were being given, many gathered to discuss ideas at the two cafes set up behind the seating. These became known as Bar-Abbas and Bar-Jonah. The Pope intervened directly to set up a mixed commission to prepare the schema on Divine Revelation because the original draft largely from the curia was so inadequate. Clearly the Pope’s message to the bishops was: “This is your Council.”

The Vatican Council ended up being a wonderful time of education for the episcopate.

Richard Gaillardetz then turned to related questions.

What does creative fidelity to the Council mean for religious life today?

- a) Empowering the baptized. Religious life is not driven by numbers.
- b) Engaging our society, but in a less institutionally formalized way than used to be the case. He says we are the early warning system of the Church.
- c) Negotiating ecclesial

<p>tensions in a way that maintains our integrity and ecclesiastical communion . Tension can be creative and productive. The laity look to religious to give witness to how tensions can be negotiated.</p> <p>What are some of the pressing needs facing the Catholic Church today?</p> <p>Gaillardetz proposed that Vatican II was both an end and a beginning. It resolved many issues that needed to be addressed: every person is called to holiness of life; the Holy Spirit gives gifts both hierarchic and charismatic; the Church itself is pilgrim, and always in need of reform and renewal; the Church is not for its own sake, but for mission; we belong to others, and are linked to humankind and its history by the deepest bonds.</p> <p>But this Council, like every Council, opened up a whole new set of questions. For example, the Council spoke of the dignity of the baptized, but said almost nothing on women. In fact, when it addressed the issue of religious life, which at the time included 1,200,000 female religious and 300,000 male religious, the men were represented by 800 leaders and the women by no-one.</p> <p>One pressing need facing the Church today is a new ministerial framework. The Council affirmed that the Spirit of</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is building up the Church in many different ways. The Spirit gives gifts to everyone, special graces to take up tasks and offices to build up the Church. We need to create a structure to discern what the gifts of the people of God are. Those called to presbyteral leadership need to be gifted in being able to discern and call forth others' gifts. They need to have a collaborative view of ministry, like a symphony orchestra conductor, bringing forth the best in the diverse gifts of others.</p> <p>Another need is to cultivate a deeper sense of the Church's catholicity. Catholic comes from the Greek 'Kath'ho'lou', meaning 'pertaining to the whole'. This implies a differentiated unity, a plentitude reflected in our unity. It was suggested that as the New Testament is in Greek, not in Aramaic as Jesus spoke, no language, no culture has an elevated status in Christianity.</p> <p>When Christianity comes to a culture, it gives over power to the host people. It asks: How do you say this in your language? This is an act of vulnerability. We trust the host people to make it their own. We say: Gift us with how this looks in your context. What do you have to teach us?</p> <p>Finally, Richard asked: What are the obstacles to our being a teaching and learning Church today? How do we</p>	<p>become a community of dialogue and discernment?</p> <p>a) The Gregorian form of the Church originated with Pope Gregory VII in the eleventh century and continued through much of the second millennium. This framework still affects us today. It has three components: a dramatically increased sense of the authority of the Pope; increased sacralization of ordained priesthood, giving rise to clerical elitism; and an epistemology of illumination, seeing divine revelation as coming from above with us as passive recipients. Bishops acting out of this mindset see themselves as passing on the truth.</p> <p>b) A shift from a Thomistic to a neo-Augustinian view of the Church's mission in the world. The Vatican Council followed a Thomistic view which sees signs of grace at work outside the Church. The neo-Augustinian view is suspicious of the world, inclined to see secularity as always bad and is quasi-apocalyptic (eg: using phrases such as 'the culture of death')</p> <p>c) The perceived threat of a more educated laity and broader access to theological debates. This has resulted in more activism by bishops, eg: the oath of fidelity, bishops feeling obliged to police theological conversations, bishops worrying about confusing the faithful.</p> <p>d) The threatened dissolution of Catholic identity. This is a characteristic of post-</p>
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modernity where identity is constructed. Bishops often falsely assume that identity is maintained by adherence to doctrine. Hence the emphasis on oaths of fidelity and Catholic charters.

e) The quest for certitude trumps the quest for understanding. According to Bernard Lonergan, classical consciousness (objective truth is there to be known easily) has given way to historical consciousness (we appropriate truth through understanding which is always acquired through culture). Since the Vatican Council, the approach has gone back to the classical one.

Vatican II laid the foundation for a listening Church. God's word is addressed to the whole church. The whole of creation receives divine revelation. Every Christian has the *sensus fidei*, for we are all recipients of God's word.

So, bishops need to be learners as well as teachers. There is danger of the heresy of ecclesiastical gnosticism. But ordination does not infuse knowledge. Bishops are assisted by the Holy Spirit to teach God's word, but they must be learners and listeners before teaching. St Paulinus of Nola (a bishop) said: 'In all the faithful, the Spirit of God breathes'.

In summary, the Second Vatican Council was a graced event in the life of the Church. It captured the best of Catholic thinking for

bringing the faith to our modern world. There is much we as religious can do to implement the teaching it proclaimed. Let us play our part in being a community of dialogue and discernment.

*Paul Cooney*  
*Provincial*

12th March 2012

## Provincial's Diary

### March

- 15-19 Japan Visitation and Closing Mass
- 20 Provincial Council
- 21 Professional Standards Training Day
- 28 CLRI Executive meeting
- 28 Marist Family Leaders meeting

### April

- 17 Provincial Council
- 20 Buildings Committee
- 21

## Personnel

### Aliki Langi

Fr Aliki Langi, a Tongan Marist who has worked for the last twenty years in the Philippines, was granted a permanent visa for Australia by the immigration department on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Aliki had already been accepted on a trial basis to become a member of the Australian Prov-

ince. Aliki will arrive in Australia on March 22 and is appointed to the team in Gladstone parish. We welcome Aliki and wish him well as he joins us in Australia.

### Kevin Stewart

Congratulations to Kevin who was elected to the Provincial Council to replace Ray Chapman. Kevin's four year term began on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

### Paul Cooney

Paul Cooney has moved from the Villa Maria community to take up residence in the Haberfield community.

### Pat McCabe

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, Pat McCabe moved residence and is now a member of the Maryvale-Montbel community. His room is in Maryvale.

### Bernie Ryan

Bernie has been given permission to move from Booroongen Djugen in Kempsey to the Marist community house for the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry team in Briner St, Macksville.

## Deaths

### Ron Josephs



On 8<sup>th</sup> February over 40 Marist confreres, many Marist Sisters and Sisters of St Joseph, and a large number of family and friends gathered to farewell Fr Ron Josephs SM at his Funeral Mass in the Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill.

When Ron passed away in Longueville Private Hospital on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, he was only a few months from celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination.

In Ron's dedicated life as a Marist, initially in parish work in the province, then in retreat work and spiritual direction, in his work in the English province for a number of years, and finally as an assistant pastor and support person in Burnie, he aided many in their search for God. In his last few months Ron's courageous and faith-filled struggle with cancer was an inspiration to those who saw him on this final journey.

Ron loved prayer, talking about God, cricket (especially 'the Don') and singing the golden oldies (of which he knew thousands by heart) but nothing that came after 1955.

The homily by Bernie McFadyen and eulogy by Ron's niece, Carmel Babos, given at Ron's Requiem are

Included with this newsletter.

### Sr Vera Harvey

Sr Vera Harvey, a Sister of Charity from Newfoundland, who lived at Villa Maria and taught at Catholic Theological Union in 1983 – 84, passed away somewhat unexpectedly in Canada on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Sr Vera's relatives wrote to inform us of her death. Vera's time at Hunters Hill was a very happy and special period in her life when she had formed many close friendships.

### Tess Geary

Tess, who was a long-time member of the former Marist Seminary Committee, passed away on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Her funeral Mass was held at St Mel's Campsie on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### Bill Griffiths

Bill, who was a sacristan at St Patrick's, Church Hill for many years, died on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Bill's funeral was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February in the Catholic Church at Sandy Creek, about 40 km from Albury. Garry Reynolds was able to be present.

### Mary King

Mary King, the sister of Tony King sm, passed away on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February in Ryde District Hospital where she had been ill with a serious chest infection for about ten days. Mary's Requiem Mass was held in the Hunters Hill Parish Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. A good number of confreres were able to attend and offer their prayers for Mary and to support Tony in his loss.

### Michael O'Meeghan sm

Mick O'Meeghan sm passed away at the Home of Compassion, Silverstream (NZ), on 27<sup>th</sup> February. He was buried from St Mary of the Angles, Wellington on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

In 1972 –73, Mick swapped places with Laurie Hannigan and taught Sacred Scripture in the Seminary at Toongabbie while Laurie went to Greenmeadows and PRS Suva. Mick was greatly loved and respected among his Marist confreres. He was

well known in New Zealand through his ministries of teaching, seminary professor, historian, pastor and for many years mission liaison person for the NZ province.

### **Terry Buggy**

Terry Buggy, aged 72 years, passed away on February 23rd, from Motor Neurone Disease. He is survived by his wife Nancy and four children. Present at his funeral were 13 of his school friends.

Terry was a classmate of Jim Carty, John Begg and Terry Garrett and had a distinguished career as a teacher of History and English. He retired as Headmaster of Manly Boys High School in 2001, but continued teaching part-time in TAFE colleges. He was the author of two books, one of which, "Race Relations in Colonial Australia" is used as a text in high schools.

### **Franziska Przybylowicz**

The funeral service for Franziska Przybylowicz, Maria Baden's mother, was led by Kevin Bates in the Chapel of the Castlebrook Memorial Park Crematorium, Rouse Hill on 7th March. Many Marist and Mercy Sisters attended the service. Maria Baden, stalwart of the Marist Laity movement in Australia for many years, spoke beautifully of her mother in the eulogy.

## **Sick**

### **Tony Biddle**

Tony underwent surgery on 12<sup>th</sup> March, for prostate cancer. After a few days in the SAN Hospital, Wahroonga, Tony will be recovering at home for about six weeks. Please keep Tony in your prayers.

### **Terry Kelly**

Most members of the Province would be aware that Terry Kelly is suffering from Alzhiemers Disease. Some friends of Terry have recently mentioned that his condition is worsening and asked if we could keep Terry and Jennifer, in our prayers.

## **News**

### **Japan Closure**

After over sixty years of our Marist Mission in Japan, its formal closure at Easter 2012 will be marked by a Mass on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March celebrated in the main church in Nara. Bishop Paul Yoshinao Otsuka, Bishop of Kyoto, will be the principal celebrant. Provincial, Paul Cooney will be joined by the Marist team in Japan as well as several Marist visitors at the Mass.

Bishop Otsuka will host the Marists present in Nara for dinner on the Friday evening.

Many Marists from Australia and other provinces have worked among the people in Nara Prefecture in helping to establish the Christian community there over the last six decades. Although the ending of the Marist presence in Japan will be a sad occasion for Marists and the Catholics of Nara, we pray that the faith community there will continue to be strong.

As you are aware, Paddy O'Hare and Oscar Ichiba will continue to minister in the diocese for a further year.

### **Japan Retreat**

The final retreat for the conferes in Japan is being held from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March at Mefu in Osaka. Michael Whelan is leading the retreat.

### **Provincial Chapter**

The Pre-Capitular Committee (PCC) organizing the Provincial Chapter, to be held in the Hunters Hill Parish Hall from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July, has already held one face-to-face meeting and had two phone conferences. Things seem to be progressing smoothly. Regional meetings are one way the PCC is involving members of the province in the staging of this very im-

portant Chapter. The first round of regional meetings was held during Jan – Feb.

Tony Kennedy, as Chair of the PCC, wrote to all members of the Province on 9<sup>th</sup> March setting out the timetable and areas of focus for our next two meetings, one to be held before Easter and the other between 1 – 20 May. The pre-Easter meeting will look at the latest Superior General's circular and the reports

from the first regional meetings. The final regional meeting will be a discussion on the Review of SM Governance currently being undertaken by John Honner for the Society. Governance in the Australian Province will also be considered.

The PCC would like to remind everyone concerned that:-

All submissions and postulata for the Chapter should be received by 30th April.

Any confrere who wishes to register to be an observer at the Chapter and is willing to take part in the whole of it should submit their name by 30th April.

The PCC would also like to give preliminary notice that, if delegates are in agreement, day two of the Chapter (Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> July) will be a day devot-

ed to Review of Governance issues and be open to all members of the Province. Definite word on that will be given shortly.

### **Provincial Council Planning**



Following a Provincial Council meeting at Bilgola on 20<sup>th</sup> February the new Provincial Council team spent 21<sup>st</sup> February reviewing and updating the two-year plans adopted by the Council at the beginning of 2011. Gerry Hall and Kevin Stewart are the councillors who came on to the Council over the last couple of months.

### **'Light from our Origins'**



John Hannan SM, has written a circular urging Marists to draw deeply from the rich roots of our Society, especially from the spirituality and vision of our Founder, Fr Jean-Claude Colin.

John describes his circular letter, 'Light from our origins', as '*a meditation and a*

*dream*' for Marists and Marist communities worldwide to grow in their passion for Marist life and mission.

*'I want to speak to you brother-to-brother', writes John. 'I want a Society of Mary that gives passion for life... and operates out of the mind and heart of Mary as our first and perpetual superior... where each community is a rich haven from which a vigorous mission flows.'*

John's circular is available on the internet and printed copies are being forwarded with this newsletter.

The circular will be part of the agenda for the upcoming round of Regional



Meetings to be held before Easter.

### **Bellambi Jubilee**

This year marks the Golden Jubilee of the beginning of Catholic education at Bellambi in the diocese of Wollongong.

Since 1962 when the first Marist community of Frs Miles Gilmartin, John L. Walsh, and Peter Gahan opened St Paul's College, Catholic education at Bellambi has developed through a number of stages. A few years after the founding of St Paul's, the Josephites opened Holy Cross College on adjacent land to educate the girls of the northern Wollongong area.

In 1983 St Paul's and Holy Cross College amalgamated to form Holy Spirit College Bellambi. Bill Ryder sm was the first Principal and Sr Maria Casey rsj was the deputy. The Marists and Josephites no longer have a physical presence both the spirits of both congregations continue to be honoured.

Many confreres from the Australian Province have fond memories of times spent at Bellambi with the students and families of 'the Gong'. A committee has been established to plan a suitable Jubilee Celebration to be held later in the year, probably on 8th September. The commit-

tee has representation from ex-students as well as members of the current college community. Paul Cooney is the representative of the Marist Fathers on the planning committee. More details will be passed on when they become known.

### **Principal's Appointment**

Ms Amanda Wilson, former Deputy Principal of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi was recently appointed Principal of the college. The congratulations of the Province are extended to Amanda.

As Deputy Principal, Amanda warmly encouraged the links between Holy Spirit College and the Josephite Sisters and Marist Fathers.

### **Ranong Founder Honoured**

On 14<sup>th</sup> February, New Zealand-born **Fr John Larsen sm**, founder of the Marist mission in Ranong (Thailand) was awarded the '*Future Justice*' International Prize by the Australian Catholic University in a ceremony in East Melbourne.

John has worked for 25 years in the southern Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand. It is for his work in education and HIV health care in Ranong that attracted the affirmation of the Melbourne-based,

'Future Justice' group. John recently left the Ranong mission to take up the post as leader of the new Marist International Scholasticate community, Via Livorno, in Rome.

### **Charlie Randle Cycles on**

Charlie Randle is nearing the end of his annual 500 km bike ride to raise funds for Marist seminarians, especially those in Bomana and Suva. '*Cycling for seminarians*' has been going for a number of years and Charlie regularly raises between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for this Mission Centre project. It would be a great gesture for any confrere with a spare "fifty" to send his 'unwanted' to Charlie. It would keep Charlie smiling and persuade him to be extra nice to his community for a few months!

### **Hunters Hill Mens' Shed and other Developments**

Over the last couple of months the setting up of the Hunters Hill/Ryde Mens' Shed in the old workshop at Villa Maria has been going smoothly. A small group has done most of the work of cleaning up the workshop and getting it ready to receive new equipment. 80 men from around the area have signed on to be members of the Mens' Shed.



**JPICC News**

At the suggestion of the Province’s Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee, Provincial Circulars from now on will contain a specially designated ‘Social Justice’ corner. Through this short insert the JPICC will help make the

Province-at-large aware of issues and problems in the area of Social Justice.

Electrical and plumbing work has been done in the workshop to upgrade it, and new equipment has been donated . Organizing training in use of safety equipment and setting up a supervisors’ roster are the current priorities. Within a few months the project will be fully operational.

An exclusive Marist workshop is being set up in the double door garage near Montbel. The Marist storage area in the large room attached to the old workshop, often referred to in the past as the squash courts, is also being fixed up

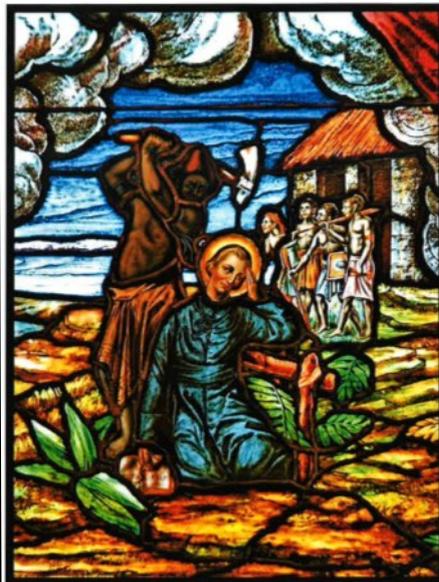
These two projects are the result of a couple of months work, mainly by Terry Garrett.

**Vocations Novena**

NZ Vocation Promotor, Pat Brophy sm, has once again completed an excellent Vocations Novena. It will run from 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April and is included with this newsletter.

Short extracts each day from the 2012 Holy Father’s World Day of Prayer for Vocations message provide very good meditation points for us to use.

Reports from recent regional meetings show that our Province is vitally concerned about vocations at this time. Praying the Novena is something we can all do. We are



all responsible for vocations. It can be a good start for our intensified action on vocations.

**Publications**

**Gerry Arbuckle**

Gerry is currently completing his latest book, Reforming Healthcare Systems. It will be finished by the end of May 2012 and is to be published in 2013. Based on the Oxford University D’Arcy Lectures that Gerry delivered in 2011, the book is to be published by US / UK Jessica Kingsley Publishers, a firm of academic publishers who specialize in public policy issues.

**John Thornhill on ‘YouTube’**

John Thornhill and Patrick Lim’s latest project in the Emmaus Series are short YouTube video clips in the

program, Introduction to Catholic Theology: A Seminar for Beginners.

In the videos John gives excellent, short and clear expositions of Catholic theology that can be highly recommended to anyone inquiring about the faith or to any Catholic who wants to know more about Catholic theological teaching.

**Gerry Hall—'YouTube'**

Not to be outdone by JT, the Province Website recently (Feb) carried news that Gerry Hall appears on YouTube.

An interview with Gerard Hall on Raimon Panikkar and a lecture from a university in Siena are now available on YouTube. Gerry's lecture and the interview were made during Gerry's sabbatical in 2011. Go to the Australian Province Website and in the 'news' for February where you will find the links to access the lecture and interview.

**Advertisements**

**Mobile Phone Numbers**

In Australia mobile phone numbers go public next month. This means that your

mobile number will be released to telemarketing companies and almost certainly you will start to receive sales call soon after. Note:- **you will be charged for these calls.**

[www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au) is a link where you can enter your phone number online to put an end to telemarketing calls.

Don't just delete calls that come to you. The warning is that you will find that you have been signed up for all sorts of extra services that you didn't want or know about, like special chimes, music etc.

**Currumbin & Bilgola Flats**

The self-contained flat at **Currumbin** is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through Judy Saliba at the Provincial Office. Current bookings are:

13 Apr-16 Apr	K Stewart
1 May-14 May	R Chapman
7 Jul-28 Jul	B Barber
30 Sep-12 Oct	P Cooney
17 Oct-7 Nov	T Fulcher
20 Nov-30 Nov	P McMurrich

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the Vicar-Provincial. Current bookings are:

23 Mar-25 Mar	St Pat's Team
15 May-31 May	<b>All Bilgola</b> R Chapman
1 Aug-31 Aug	P Kervin

**JPICC Corner**

The Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation committee met on Jan 25. The committee comprises Jim Carty (convenor), Kevin Bates, Paul Mahony, Ron Nissen & Kevin Stewart. They report: "Our three issues for focus in 2012 are post-release programs for prisoners, homelessness and the plight of the Sabian Mandaeanes.

"The province website carries easy-to-read articles on JPIC matters (7 so far this year, including a reflection from Kevin Bates; 22 articles in 2011 as well as several from Kevin.)



“We will identify JPIC issues for presentation at the chapter in July. These may include collaboration with the Oceania Province in JPIC matters. We have invited Ben McKenna to meet with us on his next visit to Sydney.

“Ron Nissen’s ‘Bridge Program’ has prepared a dozen young Burmese refugees to apply for ACU’s online diploma course.

“We meet next on Apr 10 and are happy to hear from conferees on any JPIC issues.”

## Enclosures

**1. Funeral for Ron Josephs—homily & eulogy**

**2. Death notices:  
Fr Ronald Josephs sm  
Br Jean Huitorel sm  
Fr Jean de Dinechin sm  
Fr Gerard Noblet sm  
Fr Henk van der Wielen sm  
Fr Franco Gioannetti sm**

**3. Light from our Origins—  
Fr John Hannan sm**

**4. A Novena Prayer for Vocations to the Society of Mary 2012**

## Directory

**Chris Austin**  
Mobile: 0400 527 642

## Anniversaries

### March

- 2 Fr Fincent Mills 1993
- 5 Fr Claude-Marie Joly 1892
- 5 Fr Alphonse Faugle 1899
- 6 Fr Kevin Muldoon 2000
- 6 Fr Francis Lopez 2011
- 7 Fr Albert de Theye 2007
- 8 Br Edward Jones 1996
- 11 Fr Michael Cruickshank 2000
- 12 Fr Lawrence Kelledy 1935
- 15 Fr John McSherry 1963
- 18 Br Michael Cunningham 1979
- 19 Fr Henry Seymour 1949
- 20 Fr Henri Couloigner 1897
- 20 Fr Aloysius van Houte 1990
- 21 Fr Arthur Burger 1943
- 22 FR Charles Kirk 1904
- 22 Fr Peter Eastwick 1998
- 23 Fr Andreas Schahl 1871
- 23 Fr Jules Peter Joly 1879
- 24 Br (Scholastic) James Hayes 1917
- 25 Fr Edmund Gilmartin 1971
- 25 Br Clement Turnbull 2005
- 27 Fr Patrick Reynolds 2001

28 Fr Cyril Butler 1991