

Franciscan Angles

A Newsletter of Anglican Franciscans in Aotearoa New Zealand

2015 - 2

Congratulations Brother Brian! Ninety Years



*Brother Brian celebrated his 90th birthday in March this year with a lunch with family and friends.
Dean Peter Rickman, Br Brian, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley*

JOYOUS FRANCISTIDE

The Ministry of Presence

Br. Clark Berge, ssf

I live in a world of instant is one such place. The brothers communication, commonplace live as they are able, and the busy-ness and multiple levels testimonials to the value of of commitments that pull me in their presence in Te Ara Hou many different directions. The Village are eloquent temptation, I suppose, is to affirmations of their ministry of think that all of this activity prayer and presence.

makes me important. So I have been a little bit challenged by Br. Damian Kenneth's invitation to write about the ministry of presence.

Scripturally, the voice of our God is heard in utter silence; Jesus calmed the storm and chided the disciples for their lack of faith. God's power is revealed in silence and calm. To create and maintain silence deep within us is an important development in spiritual maturity—so that even amidst a busy life we remain connected, and if our life is quieter, we have access to a highway to our God!

The ministry of presence is contemplative living: that is, living collaboratively with the silence and calm in order that people might discover God or be refreshed by encounters with the brothers or the house itself.

I think all Christians are called to be a "still, non-anxious presence" in the world. It's how we attract people to Christ. Obviously this ministry takes true grit in an anxiety provoking world. The challenges to a ministry of presence are acedia and a creeping sense of uselessness, so we must be on our guard against all that would diminish the quiet prayerful ministry of presence. As John Milton said: "they also serve who simply stand and wait."

Our incarnational/sacramental theology values outward signs of inward grace. Creating places of silence, calm, and living purposefully in an open-handed, generous and reposeful way is very important. The Friary of the Divine Compassion in Hamilton



Minister General Visits Hamilton

Brother Clark Berge ssf, the Minister General of the First Order Brothers, recently visited the Friary in Hamilton as part of his function as an agent of our unity as a brotherhood.

He had a very busy week with us. Arriving on Monday evening and leaving on the following Sunday evening.

During that week he met with the brothers both communally and individually. Clark spent time with the Anglican Action staff in their weekly staff meeting and spoke to the group. That led on to an invitation to join the Men's Support Group at their weekly meeting, with dinner, at the men's flats.

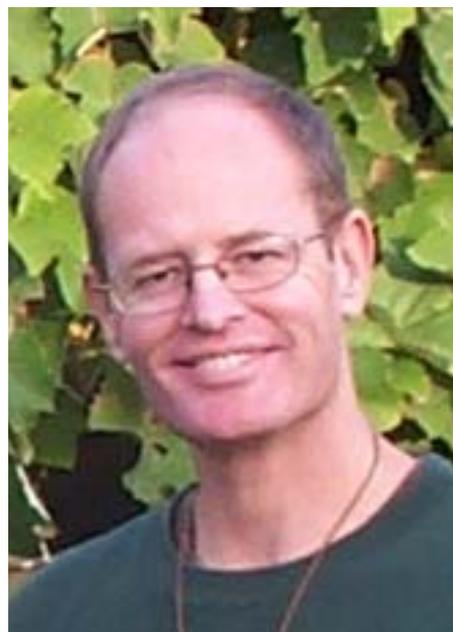
Clark presided at the Wednesday evening Eucharist in the friary.

Thursday the friary, with the Diocesan Ministry Educator, hosted a lunch discussion with a dozen invited guests.

On Saturday Clark gave the addresses at the quarterly friary Quiet Day and on Sunday preached at two services at St Peter's Cathedral.

He probably slept all the way to Honiara.

Thanks Clark for a busy, full and great visit.



Brother Clark Berge ssf

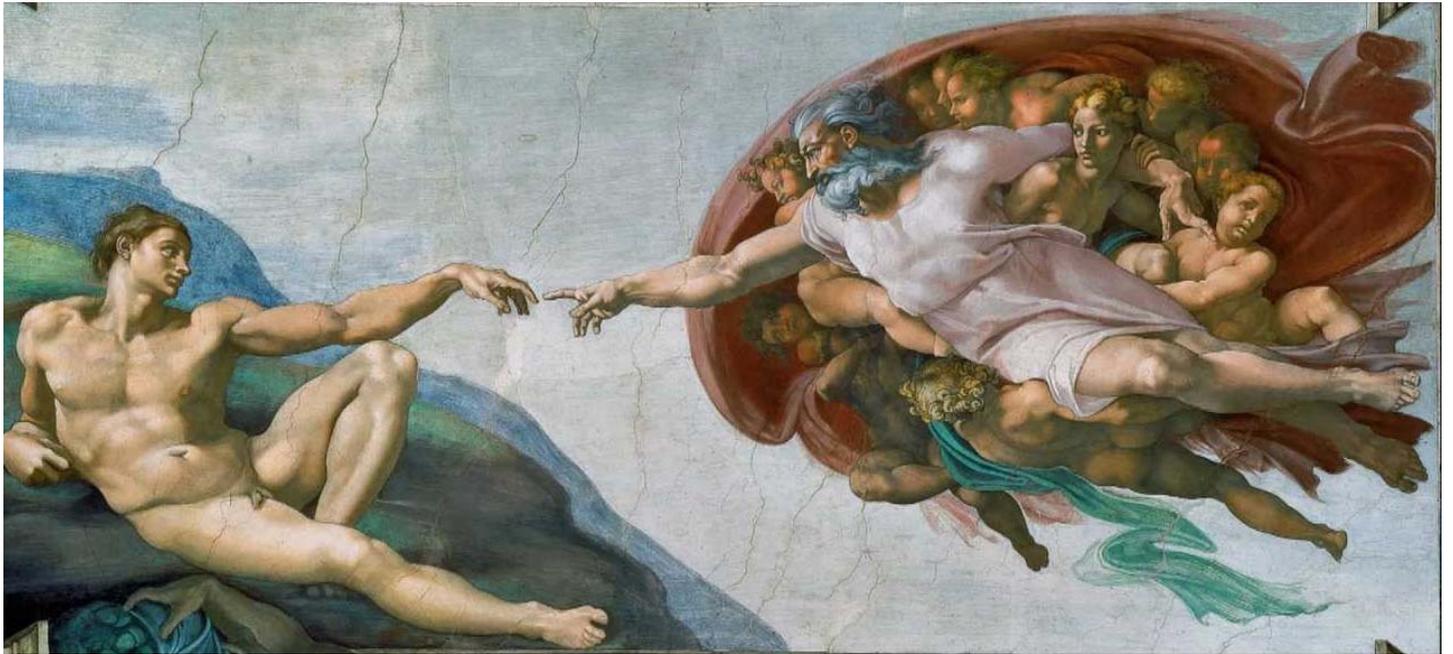
***Is God calling you to be
a Franciscan Friar?***



Contact our Vocations Group
provincialsecretary@franciscan.org.au

The Mystery of Presence:

Phil Dyer tssf



Dr David Benner, the they create *'the thin places in internationally known depth which we live. It is the psychologist and wisdom threshold through which we teacher, in his recent book. pass to transform the ordinary 'Presence and Encounter: into the extraordinary, the Sacramental Possibilities of secular into the sacred.'*

Everyday Life', (Brazos Press, Recently I had the 2014) presents a series of opportunity to read again reflections on presence and the Karen Armstrong's book, way in which it makes *"Beginning the World"*, and for encounter possible and life me her concluding pages meaningful. When we are truly illustrated Benner's above present, he says, life reveals insight. In her partial its meaning to us through autobiography, Karen very encounter with ourselves, poignantly recounts the others, the natural world and difficulties she experienced with God. In fact, Presence is following her decision to leave the link, or that which the seclusion of the convent 'entangles us', to use a she had entered seven years quantum term, between the earlier, when she was only 17 divine and human realms. years old. Compared to the Benner reminds us that these nervous excitement of entering two realms are so interwoven, the convent to 'find and serve

God', the challenge of leaving you have faith in the God one was how to fracture the has ceased to believe in?' chrysalis that had bound her Karen asked herself. 'Yet God through those years of was there for me somewhere. I religious formation and learn to couldn't seem to let him go', be 'at home in herself' in this she thought. *'What does faith new world of freedom. In the bring you?'* the priest asked. process she had to shed not *'Life everlasting,'* Karen replied. only the clothing and the Life. Not the endless death she behaviour patterns of the pre- had sought for so long. *'If you Vatican II cloister, but also find desire to enter into life',* the a new understanding and way priest continued, *'keep the of relating to what it meant to commandments: You shall love be a human being, let alone God ... and your neighbour as any sense of relearning how to relate to the divine.'*

In her concluding pages, Karen reveals how this new

"Presence makes encounter possible and also makes life meaningful. The search for meaning is a search for Presence."

- Dr David Benner

breakthrough of faith suddenly to be baptised all you had to surprised her within the do was undertake to love God context of a private baptism as best you could. The priest service for Simon, the child she then gave Simon the salt and had been helping to care for as prayed that *'he may no longer an undergraduate student, who hunger but be filled by had suffered significant brain heavenly nourishment'*. In that damage at birth. As the priest moment Karen realised her asked Simon the baptismal basic hunger for God was still questions, Karen answered for there. Her belief could never Simon, and her epiphany be what it once was, but her sounds similar to Brenner's spiritual hunger was still comment above: present, and as Simon was

'What do you ask of the given the lighted candle to Church of God?' the priest signify his new life in God, asked Simon: *'Faith'*, Karen Karen felt a surge of new joy replied for Simon. *'But how do*

(Continued on page 6)

The Mystery of Presence

(Continued from page 5)

and excitement. Then as the priest instructed Simon to *'Go in peace...and the Lord be with you'*, Karen had no idea where this 'new faith' would lead her, nor able to define it clearly, because God now defied definition, but she knew she would spend the rest of her life trying to penetrate the thick 'cloud of unknowing' that had already (re)claimed her. (Armstrong, K (1983) *Pan Books*, pp 241 - 243, abbreviated).

This mystery of presence provided Karen with a new sense of meaning and direction, and we have benefited from the wealth of inquiry and wisdom she contributes to our world, and for the Charter for Compassion that she, and others are promoting. * I suspect Simon had a significant part in Karen's formation in this area as well, because as Richard Rohr OFM, points out in his introduction to Brenner's book, *'Presence is always seeking to reveal itself and essentially demands mutual relationship'*. This relationship is inclusive of ourselves, and others. Rohr suggests it also includes our relationship with

our wider environment, and is illustrated in St Francis of Assisi's *Canticle* when he speaks of *'Brother Sun,' 'Sister Water,' and 'Our Sister, Mother Earth'*, granting them *'subjectivity, dignity and reciprocity'*. Rohr continues: *'Scientists are finding ever newer evidence for what some religious people call 'presence' in the very organizing energy of the universe – from fractals, to holograms, to electro-magnetism, to force fields, to gravitation itself – all of which invite us into a certain degree of mystery and no-explainability – and also participation. The great scientists are revealed in their contentment with a certain degree of mystery! I wish we clergy were as patient.'*

* (<https://www.ted.com/participate/ted-prize/prize-winning-wishes/charter-for-compassion>).



A Praying Presence

Br Brian ssf

In the second half of the He is with us in moments of Eucharist in the New Zealand joy and in times of difficulty Prayer Book the opening words and sadness, even in tragedy. are "The Lord is here" and the He is with us in all response "God's Spirit is with manifestations of creation. He us". The worshipping is in all whom we meet or community is thus reminded relate to. He is not only that the most important person present in the consecrated in the celebration of the elements of the Eucharist, holy Eucharist is not the ordained Bread and holy Wine, but also priest or the assistants and in fellow communicants. We servers, the choir and the are one in Christ bound organist, the readers and together by God's Spirit.

leaders of the intercessions, This means that we who not even the preacher, but are members of the Body of Jesus Christ Himself. Christ are participants in His

Jesus Christ is the Second ministry of presence. His Person of the Trinity. He is the prayer in eternity is also eternal Son of God, always has prayed in our efforts to pray in been and always will be. He is time. How do we become the Word of God. At a certain aware of His praying to the point He became truly human, Creator-Father within us so that He is seen to be divine individually and corporately?

and human. From eternity The Spirit of the Eternal through time, yesterday, today Praying Christ takes us and our and forever, his role is offering prayer into eternity. He is our Himself to the Creator whom best friend. We can be in he called Father. That is what continual contact with Him He is doing at the Eucharist. both through our desire and That is why we can say "the effort at prayer and through Lord is here" – "God's Spirit is reading and reflecting on the with us". That is His ministry of gospels often: they are like Presence. love-letters and emails

But Jesus Christ is not only between God and ourselves. here in the liturgy. God's Spirit This can be our ministry of is with us wherever we are. He presence to others in Christ's is here, there and everywhere. name.



*Our cheerful and friendly volunteer,
Vikki Jones at work in the Friary Library.*



*One of the lovely advantages of our new library room is to have space for visitors to sit and read.
We subscribe to a number of magazines and Journals which are here for browsing or research.*



FROM THE HAMILTON FRIARY LIBRARY DESK

Work on re-cataloguing the Friary Library continues, thanks to the invaluable help and support of Vikki Jones who assists us in Hamilton and Helen Greenwood at Kinder Library, St John's Theological College in Auckland.

The books we had stored off-site in a 'Stack' collection have been reintegrated with the main library, and there seems to be a continuous shuffling of books along shelves, however the end is almost in sight! Vicki has been also covering in plastic those hard covered books with paper dustcovers.

We have had a number of generous donations of books over the past months. Don Cowan arrived with 5 boxes of books providing some good additions to the library. We have also had several other smaller donations of books, which are all very much appreciated.

One of the lovely advantages of our new library room is to have space for visitors to sit and read as shown in the photo. We also subscribe to a number of magazines and Journals and these include:

- The Tablet
- Anglican Taonga
- Franciscan Connections – The Cord – A Spiritual Review
- Tui Motu
- Refresh – Journal of Contemplative Spirituality
- Fairacres Chronicle – Journal of Sisters of the Love of God

We also have back copies of a number of other Journals the Friary has subscribed to over the years.

We hope to have our Library Catalogue available online as we update our webpage.

Meanwhile it is available on the computer in the library or under 'Franciscan Friary Hamilton' at the John Kinder Theological Library Anglican search database

(<http://jklt.ac.nz/elmweb/jadehttp.dll?newwebopac>).

Phil Dyer tssf

Pope Francis Makes Ecumenical Overture Towards Anglicans

Christian unity does not mean Christian conformity, Pope Francis told a gathering of 50,000 Catholic Charismatics held at St Peter's Square on 3 July 2015. The Pope stated the Anglican Martyrs of Uganda -- 23 young Anglicans killed by King Mwanga of Buganda in 1886, along with 22 Roman Catholic young men -- should be venerated as Catholic martyrs to the faith too. The pope's remarks came at the close of the 38th National Convocation of the Renewal in the Holy Spirit Movement held in Rome from 3-4 July 2015. In his impromptu address to the conference, which included "Orthodox and Catholic oriental Patriarchs, Anglican and Lutheran bishops, and Pentecostal pastors," reported Vatican Radio, Pope Francis said unity does not mean uniformity. It is not a "spherical" unity in which "every point is equidistant from the centre and there is no difference between one point and another. The model is the polyhedron, which reflects the confluence of all the parts that nonetheless maintain their originality, and these are the charisms, in unity but also diversity," he said. Francis also spoke of the "unity of the blood of martyrs, that makes us one. There is the ecumenism of blood. We know that those who kill Christians in hatred of Jesus Christ, before killing, do not ask: 'But are you a Lutheran, Orthodox, Evangelical?'



Pope Francis greets Archbishop David Moxon at the 38th National Convocation of the Renewal in the Holy Spirit Movement



Papua New Guinea Provincial Chapter



*Back, L to R: Worrick Marako, Wilbert, Laurence Hauje, Wallace Yovero, Charles Iada, Oswald Dumbari (Minister Provincial for PNG), Nathanael Gari.
Front, L to R: Lindsay Ijiba, Collin Velei, Samson Siho (Minister Provincial for Solomon Islands), Clark Berge (Minister General).*



*A Sunday lunch to welcome Fr Peter Huckle SSJE to Hamilton.
Dean Peter Rickman, Br Brian ssf, Andrew McKean tssf, Christine McKean,
Fr Bryan Smith, Fr Peter Huckle SSJE, Myles Hartley, Phil Dyer tssf.*

Bits & Pieces



Ben Petschel was admitted as a Postulant at Midday Prayer on the Feast of St Bernard of Clairvaux, at Stroud Hermitage. We pray for Ben and his vocation.



Brian is working with a volunteer from Waikato Hospice, to record his memories. This project is nearing the final stages.



Damian Kenneth have my prayer-time outside commented, "A on the back verandah great joy for me surrounded by the trees and has been a new shrubs and countless birds hearing aid. My singing, a joy. The brothers are last one had probably as pleased as I am outlived its life with the results as we can now and the technology has converse again." advanced so much. A truly wonderful experience is to



Please Pray With Us

Alfred Boon Kong
Brian
Bruce-Paul
Christopher John
Cyril
Damian Kenneth
Daniel
Donald Campbell
James Andrew
Lawrence
Lionel
Nathan James
Noel-Thomas
Raphael Suh
Stephen
William

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