



Southern Star Abbey, Kopua, New Zealand

2012



Each year begins with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God and the first reading for the feast presents us with the blessing that God deposes Aaron and his sons to bestow upon the children of Israel for ever: *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his face and bring you peace.* And so we continue to give thanks and praise to our God who has led us through this year.

January.

The abbot flew to Australia to be with his brother-in-law, Ray Leigh, who was dying. John Prescott was admitted to hospital in Waipukurau.

February

John Prescott was placed in respite care in Mount Herbert House. This arrangement became permanent, at John's request. The concerns of the community were solved as John's needs were almost beyond the capabilities of the monastic community and Anglican Care services. Daniel Morrow, one of our faithful Companions, returned to Australia.

March

The community attended the installation of +Charles Drennan at the cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North. We gratefully record the wonderful support we received from +Peter Cullinane during the past thirty two years. John Prescott returned to the monastery to celebrate his 81st birthday. Demolition of many of the old cells and utility buildings took place and no tears were shed. Fr Michael Casey of Tarawarra, Melbourne, delivered a splendid series of lectures on St Aelred of Rievaulx.

April

We had the honour of hosting the Sub Regional Meeting of the Cistercian communities of Asia and the Pacific, ORIENS. The meeting provided us with an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest and to offer appropriate help to each other. Sarah organised a bus tour for the delegates to Taupo with an overnight stay at the Tyburn Monastery at Ngakuru. The following morning we visited the village of Whakarewarewa, a Maori cultural centre, in Rotorua and then made our way by stages back to Kopua. Father John Kelly's memoir was published in book form as "A Journey in Faith and Prayer". It will be released on our website soon. Copies of the book can be obtained by writing to us. Sarah Hancy after many years with us, and more recently as a Companion, handed over the baton to Helen Carver who has been our regular Sunday organist over many years. Sarah is now working in Melbourne and has plans for an extended period of time overseas with St James, Compostela, as the goal.

May

Br Kalolo travelled to Auckland to be with his family as they celebrated the 80th birthday of their mother Malia Lita Fine Tonga.

June

Sarah flew out to Melbourne. The first of three retreats for our Associates was held. Participants were introduced to St Bernard of Clairvaux and his teaching on the spiritual life. Br Kalolo returned to Auckland to be with his sister, Sr Evalesi, for the celebration of her silver jubilee of religious profession. The abbot attended the annual general meeting of the Benedictine Union at Arcadia, north of Sydney.

July

Abbot Augustine of Mt Melleray, Ireland, conducted the regular visitation. This was his first visit to Kopua and we appreciated very much his kindness, his thoroughness in conducting the visitation, and his

encouraging message to us all. Fr Niko set off to visit his family in Holland before attending the Formation Meeting of the Cistercians of the ORIENS region in Korea. Br Anthony turned 50. Br John started a Christian meditation group in Waipukurau having previously established groups in Hastings, Palmerston North, and Dannevirke.

August

Sheila returned to the Solomon Islands for five and a half weeks to assess the current Catholic Women's Programme in the Diocese of Auki, Malaita Province. This was followed by a training course conducted in the Buma Catechetical Centre. Following on from her report the diocese has decided to appoint a Women's coordinator and to fund programmes for the next three years. Daniel returned as a Companion.

September

The second retreat for Associates was held. The abbot conducted the annual retreat for the clergy of the Wellington and Palmerston North Dioceses at El Rancho. He is on record as admitting that he enjoyed the experience. Dr Mike Joy of Massey University spoke to us on environmental issues.

October

The abbot conducted a visitation of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Philippines on the island of Guimaras. Sr Marg Malone SGS of Kardinya, West Australia, conducted our annual retreat. The theme of the retreat was "With Grateful Hearts". Br Anthony was clothed as a novice and is now known as Br Anthony Francis, a tribute to his Franciscan heritage. Br John returned to Australia for a family visit. The last of the retreats for Associates was held.

November

Alan Belcher entered the community as a postulant. Tarrawarra Abbey elected Fr Steele Hartmann as their new abbot. Abbot Richard of Mt St Joseph, Roscrea, Ireland, visited us on his way home after conducting the election at Tarrawarra. Sessimani Otutaha, one of our Companions, and the abbot travelled to The Tyburn Monastery at Ngakuru for the golden jubilee of monastic profession of Mother Angela. Fr Peter Murphy ran a course for the World Community for Christian Meditation. Helen's father, Harry, celebrated his 96th birthday with a thanksgiving Mass and party

December

Esther de Wall visited us for a time of retreat after conducting retreats and workshops on Benedictine spirituality which were sponsored by the Anglican Church. Br Tony and the abbot attended the abbatial blessing of Abbot Steele at Tarrawarra.

All of us at Kopua wish you and your loved ones
every blessing for the season of Christmas
and in the coming year,
soon to unfold.

*May the Lord bless you
and keep you;*

*May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;*

*May the Lord show you his face
and bring you peace.*



The Pentecost Cross at Kopua



Abbot Augustine from Mount Melleray



John Prescott back at Kopua for his 81st Birthday.



Demolitioning the old accommodation/utilities block



O.R.I.E.N.S. Meeting At Kopua

(Back row) Father David Father Paul Mother Martha Father Filomena Mother Giovanna

(Front row) Father Yesudas Father Brian Father Mikael Father Gonzaga



Daniel Morrow and Abbot Richard from Roscrea.



Sr Margaret Malone who lead our Retreat



Fr Max with Father Philomena during ORIENS



Fr Michael Casey of Tarrawarra



Sheila in Malaita, Solomon Islands with Pati and Macu



Esther de Waal