

# Notre Dame Priory

## Newsletter

JUNE 2017

QUODCUMQUE DIXERIT VOBIS FACITE

ISSUE FOUR

*Life goes on at the  
Priory (and atop  
Mount Wellington...)*



## WINTER SETS IN, AND “BRIGID” MOVES INTO THE PRIORY

On the 1st of June the community went for its first official quarterly outing; the site chosen was Mount Wellington. The brethren, especially those from Queensland, were a bit anxious as to how cold it would be. In spite of repeated reminders from Father Prior that it “never really gets cold in Tasmania”, skepticism reigned.

After early Office and Mass, the community drove across the River Derwent and up to the Mount Wellington Range. Having parked their car, they spent what remained of the morning hours following several of the trails that lead around the mountain... The scenery is stunning. At noon we returned to the car and, thanks to a public barbecue which left Father Prior musing about the conscientiousness of Australians and the cleanliness of public areas, we had a delightful lunch together.

Following upon this nourishing repast, the monks set out, this time, in direction of the summit, which they reached without difficulty. For Father Prior, it was a bit like the Alpine or Pyrenees summits he had climbed in his

younger days, albeit less challenging. At the top however, there was snow and an incredibly strong and constant gust of wind which made it feel much colder than it really was. The Brisbanites in particular thought they would freeze to death (this can be detected in the photos...), but we all knew better: “It never really gets cold in Tasmania...”.

Talking about temperatures, the next day our temporary priory welcomed a long awaited inmate who has every chance of outliving any of us here: the installation in the refectory and work area of what is known in Tasmania as a heat pump (also known on the “mainland” as an air conditioner...). This long awaited new friend will hopefully prevent anyone henceforth from being really cold (actually it's sometimes rather warm!).

Another significant event of this month of June was the arrival of “Brigid”\*, our new Fuji Xerox printer. After getting quotes from other companies and going to see what they had to offer, Father Prior, with the counsel of God-fearing brethren, decided to go for Fuji who gave us a really good

price. Another advantage is that the Archdiocese of Hobart works with them most of the time too, and are quite happy with the service.

So what will “Brigid” be doing? The priory newsletter of which this issue is her first production will keep her busy once a month. In addition to that, Father Prior is desirous of creating a publishing company which would be one of the sources of livelihood of the community and would allow Notre Dame Priory to contribute to the promotion of an authentic Catholic culture through the apostolate of the press. Finally, the many and varied needs of a community of monks, ranging from liturgical booklets to study aides, all this will be part of the exciting future which is in store for “Brigid”.

Finally, as you probably know, we were able to launch a new format for our website. The feedback we've been getting seems to indicate it is more reader attractive. We hope you enjoy following us thanks to this technology.

*\* St Brigid of Kildare is patron saint of printing presses.*

# Letter from Father Prior

Beloved Friends,

When you receive this, I will be in Europe conducting, with Fr John Dupré and Brother Basil MacCabe, the British and Irish retreats. This was requested by Abbot Antoine in Flavigny before I left there last year, and so I have had to leave my beloved postulants in the quite capable hands of two solid priests and.... a retired bishop. It goes without saying that, even though I love giving retreats, and that it will be a joy to see once again so many good friends in Europe, I am very much looking forward to getting back to the Priory. Before returning however, I will spend two days at the Abbey of Flavigny. It will be a homecoming of sorts, and a great joy to see my abbot and brethren in monastic life. But my life is now here in Tasmania, and much work awaits us. There's no place like home!



We were happy to have a recent visit from our new Business Manager, Nina Jurewicz (*photo left*). Nina spent several days working at the Priory, making sure the finances are in order, that people are being thanked, and many other things which makes it possible for me to devote my time to the formation of our young postulants and relieves them too of jobs they should not have to be doing at this stage of their monastic lives. We were also blessed with a visit from long time friend and catalyst of the foundation, Martine Watkinson (*photo right*). Martine has recently handed on to her son Peter control of

the business left to her by her late husband Stuart and is now hoping to relocate to Tasmania in order to help the fledgling community here. As for our Tasmanian friends and supporters, we continue to be blessed almost every day by visits or phone calls that assure us we are not alone. God is good for giving us so much support, and may He bless all those who in various ways are making this foundation possible.



The question on everyone's lips at the moment is: "where are things with the land hunt"? The good news is that the hunt is over! Just before I left Tasmania, on the feast of Corpus Christi, I signed the purchase contract. Even though we will not be making any public announcement as to the whereabouts of the property until settlement, we are at the moment considering construction plans to be submitted for approval by the local council. This is of course a very significant step for us, one which will have long-lasting effects on the life of the community itself, but also on our many friends who will be wanting to come and spend time with us, or perhaps even settle near the monastery. It is personally gratifying to have reached this stage, as it gives me renewed confidence that the plan for building an authentic monastery in Tasmania is about to move forward. We will of course need much more support as we go along, but the graces received till now are a pledge of continued fidelity from the Lord and our many generous friends and benefactors.

The community renews its commitment to pray for you and all your intentions, and wishes you a blessed feast of St Benedict on 11th July.

In Corde Jesu,

Fr Pius Mary Noonan, Prior

*Fr Pius Mary Noonan, O.S.B.*

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To contact us, please send an email to: [info@notredamemonastery.org](mailto:info@notredamemonastery.org)

**To make a donation:**

**Via bank transfer:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia - Account name:  
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**Via cheque:** In Australian dollars, make payable to "Notre Dame Priory" and send to:  
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