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Australian and New Zealand World Youth Day pilgrims gather for a Eucharist during their Columban Mission Experience in Chile in July.

Photo: Columban



From the Editor

Walking in someone else's shoes

*T*o experience in friendship something of the reality of the lives of people who are much poorer than themselves was one of the great blessings of the Columban Mission Experience for World Youth Day pilgrims in Columban parishes in Chile. "It's like I got the chance to walk in someone else's shoes, have a sense of what their lives are like," was how one of the young pilgrims described her experience.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia through their Social Justice Statement for *Social Justice Sunday 2013*, have asked all of us to try to remember the lives of the millions of people who live in extreme poverty at our gate, just outside our borders. What is it like to walk in their shoes for a change? What can we do to work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set by the Australian and other governments in the year 2000 to alleviate poverty, amongst other things?

This issue of *The Far East* offers us several stories that give us an insight into the difficult lives of those who live at our gate, in countries beyond our borders.

Columban Fr Warren Kinne offers us a reflection on what a terrible

catastrophe it must be for poor families in China when one of their members becomes sick and needs medical attention.

Likewise, a kerosene pressure lamp exploding in a make-shift shack in Pakistan, killing the three siblings of Rattno and leaving him with serious burns, is another example of the precarious lives of the poor. Through the work of Columban Fr Robert McCulloch and St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hyderabad, Rattno has been able to receive the medical attention he requires.

We encourage our readers to become motivated to do something for our sisters and brothers on the other side of our borders, living at the gates of Australia and New Zealand.

Columban Fr Donald Kill in the Philippines tells us the story of Edward Macabio, who suffers a very mild case of cerebral palsy as a result of foetal alcohol syndrome. He was neglected and abandoned by his parents. He has received the support he needs through Balay San Columbano (The House of St Columban) run by Fr Donald.

This issue has two stories of important events for the Church and the Columbans. The ordination of the new Archbishop of Suva, Peter Loy Chong, in June this year, was a great moment in the life of the Fijian Church and Columban Mission there.

Likewise, the launch of the Australian version of "The Golden Rule" in June this year in the New South Wales Parliament was also an important milestone in the work of Columban missionaries in the area of Interreligious Dialogue.

Every issue of *The Far East* magazine, including this one, seeks to offer us insights into the lives of others, especially those living in great poverty. We seek to help give our readers insights into what it must mean to walk in the shoes of those living in poverty.

We encourage our readers to become motivated to do something for our sisters and brothers on the other side of our borders, living at the gates of Australia and New Zealand.

Dan Harding

Fr Dan Harding
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Pilgrimage to Columban

One hundred and fifty young men and women pilgrims from 13 Australian and New Zealand Dioceses participated in a Columban Mission Experience in four Columban parishes in Chile on their way to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Bishop Christopher Prowse of Sale Diocese, Victoria, and 11 priests, two brothers and a sister, accompanied the pilgrims.

This Columban Mission Experience was organised by Columban Fr Dan Harding, Janette Mentha & Assunta Scarpino from the Columban Mission Centre, Melbourne.



Photos: Fr Dan Harding, Janette Mentha and Fr Derry Healy



parishes in Chile

A Pilgrim's Heart

Into God's Hands - Arriving at Santiago Airport

Sometimes one needs to leave one comfort zone and the routine of everyday life, to hear the voice of God in one's life.



Being Welcomed into the Parish

Parishioners in the parish of San Columbano welcome the pilgrims with traditional dancing



Goals of the Mission Experience



- The young pilgrims were invited to open their hearts and minds to a South American expression of their mutual Catholic Faith.
- They were invited to participate in the vibrant liturgical and pastoral life of each parish and to see how it responded to the enormous social, economic and environmental problems in the surrounding areas.
- Together both groups would share their music, dances, songs, recipes, meals, crafts, games and friendship.
- The pilgrims would experience first-hand the cross-cultural missionary life and work of Columban priests, sisters and lay missionaries.

continued next page...

Pilgrimage to Columban



Faith Sharing Begins



Bishop Prowse and Parish Priest Columban Fr Willie Lee

Story telling before a football game



parishes in Chile



The WYD Pilgrims participated in the following events:

- Eucharist
- Faith Sharing
- Meals & Dancing
- Creation walks in Valparaiso
- Guided walks through barrios followed by reflections
- Pastoral Experiences - aged home, kinder, medical centre etc
- Mission experiences and reflection
- Sports
- Cultural exchange
- Meeting the tribal Mapuche people



Lazarus at our Gate

A critical moment in the fight against world poverty - Social Justice Statement 2013

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - AUSTRALIA - SEPTEMBER 29



Photos: Fr Oliver McCrossan

Columban Fr Oliver McCrossan with a poor family in his parish in the Philippines.

"Before I came here, I knew that people in most other countries were a lot poorer than us in Australian and New Zealand. But being here now as a pilgrim in these Columban parishes in poor areas of Chile, has really opened my eyes to the way most people in the world live. Families here live with so much less material comfort. They live in overcrowded small spaces, with job insecurity, poor labour conditions

and scarce educational and health opportunities.

"I can now see my country, Australia, in a new light, looking at it from the perspective of other nations and how we compare.

I think it is important for us to be less materialistic, less worried about consumerism and more concerned about the millions of families living in poverty in the nations around us."

This testimony was given by one of the World Youth Day Pilgrims during her Columban Mission Experience in Chile as a result of her first-hand encounter with poverty there. It was a sentiment shared by all pilgrims.

The fight against world poverty is the theme for Social Justice Sunday this year in Australia. In their Statement the Catholic Bishops of Australia call on Australians to renew our fight against poverty both in our region

Twenty percent of the world's poorest people live in countries near Australia. This means that in our region, Australia is the rich man and Lazarus is at our gate.



Despite their poverty children still attend school.

and globally. The Social Justice Statement will be launched in mid-September in time for parishes, schools and other groups to prepare for *Social Justice Sunday* on September 29.

According to the Bishops, a billion people around the world live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day. Twenty percent of the world's poorest people live in countries near Australia. This means that in our region, Australia is the rich man and Lazarus is at our gate. This refers to the parable in the Gospel of *Luke, 16:19-31*, the Gospel reading for *Social Justice Sunday*.

The Bishop's Statement specifies five groups that particularly need our support. They are: people who face severe hunger; people who are victims of disaster; Indigenous peoples; people with disabilities, refugees and displaced people.

Columban Missionaries in many countries across the globe live amongst the poor and work with all these groups. Just to name a few instances:

- *They can be found supporting victims of earthquakes, cyclones and floods in Pakistan, Fiji, the Philippines, Chile and Peru.*
- *They run or support Centres for the disabled in Peru, the Philippines and Korea.*
- *They work with Indigenous peoples in the Philippines, Myanmar, Pakistan, Chile and Peru.*
- *They are involved in advocacy work for refugees, displaced persons and in the fight against poverty in Australia, Britain, Ireland and the United States.*

Columban Fr Dan Harding reflects on the Catholic Bishops of Australia - Social Justice Statement 2013.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK - NEW ZEALAND - SEPTEMBER 8-14
Walk Alongside: Meaningful work for the young worker

This year's *Social Justice Week* in New Zealand from September 8-14 focuses on meaningful work for young people in an age of unemployment or uncertain work.

Almost 45% of those currently seeking work in New Zealand are aged 15-24.

New Zealand Bishops' Initiative

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference initiated Social Justice Week in 1997, with Caritas responsible for promoting it to the Catholic community and beyond.

Getting an education doesn't guarantee a job. While it is difficult to find stable employment, let us not lose hope!



Photo: Fr Warren Kinne

Columban Fr Warren Kinne has some special visitors after his operation.

Adequate health care - a right

FR WARREN KINNE

Columban Fr Warren Kinne had time recently to reflect on the health system in China and how it is unfairly out of reach of the poor.

*O*n June 30 I had a bout of what I thought must be food poisoning. It left me feeling bilious. The next day I felt poorly and the day after that as well. I didn't eat much but on the Wednesday started to feel a bit better. That evening I had a moderate meal and while I didn't vomit again, I was in a fair amount of discomfort.

So on the Thursday morning I decided to bite the bullet and go to the Western Clinic. I went there so that I could at the least understand perfectly what the problem was and that with a minimum of fuss. I had rather hoped for a few pills and some assurance that all would be well in a day or so.

It was an eventful day – with blood tests and a hand held scan at the first place to a back-up trip to their clinic. There I was given a CAT scan that confirmed a stone in the bile duct. As this clinic could have removed the gall bladder at the cost of AUD\$28,263/ NZD\$32,056 and AUD\$706/NZD\$801 a night stay. I was fortunate that they didn't have an endoscope and so set about finding a Chinese hospital that was prepared to "take me in."

I was transported by ambulance - which was a bit melodramatic as I was quite capable of walking - to the hospital "Number One People's Hospital, Shanghai."

I too have my health insurance but it made me think of the millions of people in the city who do not have the ability to pay for adequate health care in times of emergency.

There I was admitted after paying my deposit of AUD\$1,768/NZD\$2006. That day I had already used plastic to pay about AUD\$1,108/NZD\$1,262 for the first doctors surgery (western style) and then about AUD\$1630/NZD\$1849 to the second attached to them where I had the CAT scan. The next day I had what someone later told me was an unnecessary MRI scan.

Then I was subjected to a rather painless procedure called: endoscopic retrograde cholangio-pancheatography. During that brief enough time the stone was removed and a tube plugged into the bile duct. The other end came out through my nostril. That stayed there from Friday to Tuesday morning. I was released on Wednesday afternoon.

I lost about five kilos on the starvation diet they subjected me to from Thursday to Tuesday morning with no food nor drink, and then some rice water for a couple of days. Good to be back home although I am not yet on healthy steaks. The suitable diet for people who are gall stone sufferers is a worry.

As an aside, I had already lost about five kilos in the previous couple of weeks on a diet and exercise regime. Now I see on line that rapid weight loss can be a cause of gall-stone issues!

Oh, and the Number One People's Hospital cost over AUD\$7,607/NZD\$8,628. Incidentally, it is not really "number one," just probably the first one set-up by the Peoples Republic from a former Catholic Hospital run by French Religious Sisters. All in all the experience cost around AUD\$10,868/NZD\$12,325.

While in hospital I had scores of outside visitors. Actually I enjoyed seeing them as I wasn't sick from the Friday morning. People were very kind.

This stint in the hospital for a minor ailment taught me how frightening it is to see the way that the bills rattled up. Most ex-pats have fairly comprehensive health insurance or can afford to pay for their treatment. I too have my health insurance but it made me think of the millions of people in the city who do not have the ability to pay for adequate health care in times of emergency.

When we are sick we are inclined to do almost anything in order to get well again. We are prepared to go to almost any length to seek a remedy.

For the very poor and marginalized, this can be a situation that results in catastrophe.

When we are sick we are inclined to do almost anything in order to get well again. We are prepared to go to almost any length to seek a remedy.

For the very poor and marginalized, this can be a situation that results in catastrophe. Perhaps their child is sick, or its mother or the bread-winner – and yet the family is already in deep debt to their own poor relatives and friends for previous problems. Yet the health issue goes on and there is nowhere to turn.

We consider adequate health care as a right, yet every country to a greater

or a lesser extent, finds it hard to meet the expectations of their people.

My own sense is that sometimes sophisticated diagnostic equipment is used unnecessarily to increase the bill. There are other dishonest practices in the system for driving the bills upwards such as doubtful medication at inflated prices. Health in much of our world has become very much a business.

The task facing the Chinese Health Delivery Services are enormous because of the population and also the disparity between services in rural areas and in the big cities. What is more those who are without residential permits in places like Shanghai often have no medical cover at all.

Even Shanghai residents, especially those outside the public sector, are minimally covered for surgical procedures or serious conditions. Most are greatly out of pocket for operations, medicines and cancer treatment for example.

My compassion especially goes out to those less fortunate such as many of the migrant families we work with who cannot adequately meet their health cost needs.

Columban Fr Warren Kinne has been a missionary in China for many years. He currently works with the You Dao foundation, set up to assist internal migrant families in China.



Columban Fr Donald Kill with Edward (second, right) and members of "Community of Hope."

Photos: Fr Peter Woodruff

A wish fulfilled

FR DONALD KILL

This is the story of Edward Macabio. Edward was born June 22, 1992. When the school year began in June 2011, Edward entered grade four of primary school. He just started going to primary school in first grade in June 2007.

Edward is the oldest of three children in his family. Edward's parents were both alcoholics and never took care of their children. Edward has a very mild case of cerebral palsy, part of the effects of foetal alcohol syndrome. It affected his ability to learn to walk when he was very young. Because of his situation as the son of alcoholic, uncaring parents, Edward never had the help he needed to learn to walk.

Edward crawled around on the ground from the time he was small. His legs became stiff, the joints froze and the muscles and ligaments retracted. Eventually, he could no longer straighten his legs. Edward became very depressed as he grew older. All he could do was crawl in the mud by the seashore where he lived.

Edward's father abandoned the family, leaving the children with their mother and her parents. Two years later, Edward's mother told her parents she was going to go to Manila to find work so she could help support the children. She was never heard from again. Physically challenged and still depressed, abandoned by both of his parents, Edward saw no hope in his life. Then his grandmother heard of a programme called *Community of Hope*.

This program was set up and is directed by the Columban Sisters in the Philippines. It helps young people with severe cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and autism by training the children in certain repetitive action jobs that not only give them some small income, but more importantly, teaches them that they, too, have dignity as children of God.

Only God knows if he will be able to do that. I thank all of you who have helped me to give life to Edward, to bring him hope and to show him that God truly loves him. He has become such a gift to me and to the others in our home. May God continue to bless you and to bless Edward!

Edward's grandmother, seeking freedom from part of her burden of raising the children, brought Edward to the *Community of Hope* programme. When the Sisters interviewed Edward they found that he was far too bright and able to fit into their programmes.

Because the Sisters knew of my work with bringing hope and salvation to children of alcoholics and drug addicts, they suggested that the grandmother should bring Edward to me. My home is called Balay San Columbano, (The House of Saint Columban). Its whole purpose is to give children of alcoholics and drug addicts a chance to have life, not just birth, to have love and respect and to learn to share the love of God with others.

When I heard Edward's story, I knew immediately that he would fit in our home. I also saw that Edward was a very gentle and loving person. He had no great dreams that could not be fulfilled. When I met Edward in 2005, I asked him what he would like me to do for him. He told me, "I would like to be able to stand up so I can go to school." That was all he wanted out of life. That was almost seven years ago now. I took Edward into the home and cared for him along with more than 20 other children at that time.

Later, I arranged for Edward to have an operation on his legs so Edward could make them straight again and so that, eventually, he could walk. That operation entailed cutting Edward's legs in three places on each leg. The doctors stretched Edward's muscles and tendons. He was hospitalised for two months in a body cast. He was released from the hospital but was sent home to rest for two more months in our home.

I had arranged for a care-giver to work with Edward from the time of the operation until he was able to stand up and use a walker. His care taker was Margie who was one of the former students who lived in our home before she graduated from her course as a care-giver. She became Edward's surrogate mother as well as his care-giver. Once the cast was removed, I had to buy braces for Edward's legs and shoes large enough for his feet to fit inside along with the foot of the braces. Edward was so proud when he put on his new shoes that first day. It was a dream coming true for him.

However, before Edward had his dream truly fulfilled he had yet to undergo another operation to connect his thigh bone to his hip bone. For the second time in a year, Edward found himself in the hospital, in a cast. Once again I called

on generous Columban benefactors and friends to help pay for the needed operation. The generosity of the doctors who performed both operations and cared for Edward was inspiring. Not one of them charged even one cent for their services.

They even arranged for the hospital to be completely free. All we had to pay for was Edward's transportation, the medicines that were used and the food for his care-giver, Margie, another blessing from God. If Edward was filled with joy and pride when he first stood up in his shoes and braces, he was even more proud and filled with joy the day he went to school for the first time. He was now nearly 15-years-old and starting Grade 1 in primary school. The school was too far for Edward to walk to so I arranged for him to be taken to school every day by one of the older students in a small mini-van.

Edward is happy that I listened to his grandmother when she asked if I could help him. Living at Balay San Columbano is so much better for Edward than living in the village by the seashore. He now has his walker and even a wheelchair. Recently a friend donated an electric wheelchair for Edward in honour of a friend who had died. When the weather is nice he can take the wheelchair to school.

At Balay San Columbano we live as one big family. We share the good times and the difficult times. Edward was sad last year when I had to ask some of the older kids to stop going to school because there was not enough money. He even offered to stop if it would help, but it does not cost nearly as much for him to go to school as it does for those who are in college.

Even though Edward is much older than his classmates, he fits in with them because of his gentle character. They respect him like an older brother, and the teacher often calls on Edward when she needs help in spite of his physical limitations. He hopes to continue going to school at least until he finishes high school. As he draws nearer to graduating from primary school, he has begun to think about going to college.

Only God knows if he will be able to do that. I thank all of you who have helped me to give life to Edward, to bring him hope and to show him that God truly loves him. He has become such a gift to all in our home. May God continue to bless you and to bless Edward.

Columban Fr Donald Kill lives and works in Mindanao, Philippines.



Photo: Adam Dolasek

The Golden Rule is launched

Ashleigh Green and Columban Fr Brian Vale from the Columban Mission Institute were present for the The Golden Rule launch on June 19.

"There is one light, but many lanterns" - With these words the Honourable Mr Victor Dominello, NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Citizenship and Communities, officially launched the Australian version of *The Golden Rule* poster at NSW Parliament on June 19, 2013. Leading representatives from various religious groups, members of the public and Members of Parliament joined the Minister in launching *The Golden Rule* poster that recognises the value that unites us all.

The Golden Rule – treat others as you would like to be treated – is at the heart of all religious traditions.

The Golden Rule poster displays this principle of reciprocity in the sacred texts and symbols of 13 different religions, including Aboriginal spirituality.

Dr Tom Calma AO, who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, gave the keynote address where he highlighted recent examples of discrimination against Aboriginal people in sports and healthcare and stressed the importance of *The Golden Rule* in achieving reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Respect and recognition, he emphasised, are key

to achieving equality and justice for all Australians.

Guests had the privilege of listening to a panel discussion led by author and broadcaster, Rachael Kohn. The panel, comprised of representatives from eight different religions, explored the reality and the challenges of living *The Golden Rule* in the 21st Century.

Mrs Venus Khalessi, Director of Public Information for the Australian Baha'i community, spoke about the plight of Baha'is in Iran and the heroes of justice who have stood up for their Baha'i brothers and sisters. Mrs Khalessi described these "heroes of

justice" as "non-Baha'is, just ordinary Iranians who treated others how they want to be treated."

Venerable Dr Juewei, an active member of the Buddhist community said, "The Golden Rule translates into what we see as karma. We all want a better world and there are three ways to achieve this - through good deeds, good words and good thoughts."

Panellists used anecdotes and personal experiences to highlight the reality of living *The Golden Rule*, and the importance of passing on this value to future generations. Rabbi Mendel Kastel, CEO of the Jewish House Crisis Centre, has spent time with teenagers on the street. "It can get ugly at times," Rabbi Kastel said. "The idea of encouraging kids to respect

each other and acknowledge that we're all the same is vital."

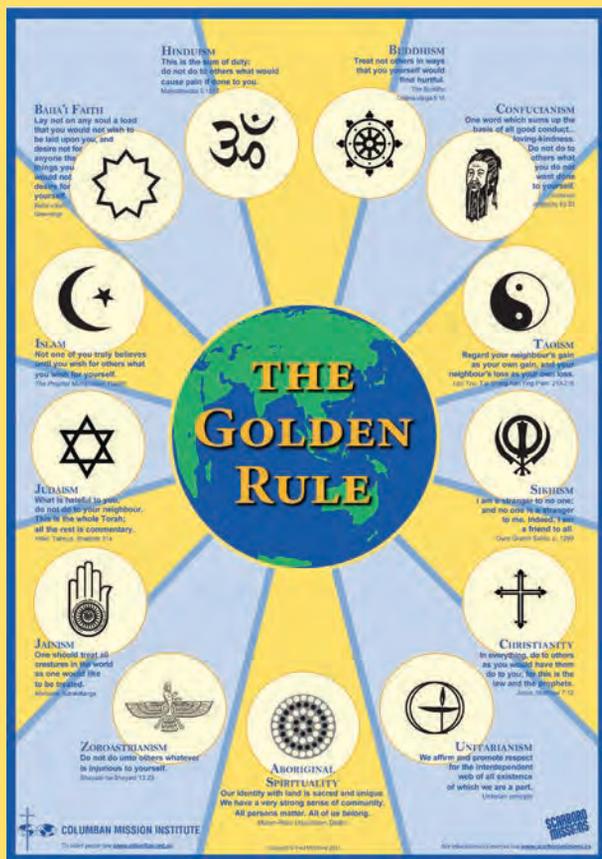
The panellists were open and honest. After being asked to describe a time when *The Golden Rule* was not upheld, Christian representative Rev David Gill recalled a conference he attended on the mission of the Church in Asia.

"We had just finished a session and everyone began making their way to the dining hall. There was a participant in a wheelchair and the dining hall could only be reached by steps.

After being stuck for some time, a Buddhist and a Muslim helped the Christian in the wheelchair." Rev Gill posed the question, "Why are we so preoccupied with theology that we can't see the person in need?"

Mr Bawa Singh Jagdev OAM, secretary of the Sikh Council of Australia, concluded the panel discussion by challenging everyone to incorporate *The Golden Rule* into their everyday actions, "If every person's actions reflected *The Golden Rule*, the world would become a paradise on earth."

The publication of the Australian version of *The Golden Rule* Poster is a project of the Columban Mission Institute's Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations. It can be used in schools, homes, congregations, universities, workplaces, hospitals and prisons for teaching compassion, multi-cultural and multi-religious cooperation and human solidarity.



The Golden Rule Poster

- Includes sacred texts of 13 different religions
- Promotes mutual respect and harmony in our multi-religious society
- Provides discussion topics for schools, homes, offices and congregations

The Golden Rule Poster is available in:
 A1 (594 X 841mm) - \$11.99 (inc GST + \$7.00 postage)
 A4 pack of 25 - \$25.30 (inc GST + \$3.50 postage)

Order at: www.columban.org.au/thegoldenrule
 or ph: (03) 9375 9475



Mission World

We ask your prayers: *The prayers of our readers are requested for the repose of the souls of friends and benefactors of the Missionary Society of St Columban who died recently: also for the spiritual and the temporal welfare of all our readers, their families and friends.*

Bishops in Manila heed the Pope's call, offer slum-dwellers moral support



Slum area in Manila, Philippines.

The Bishops called for an urgent moratorium on slum demolitions and prepare "effective disaster-response measures for those living along waterways, instead of resorting to mass relocations.

"The Church as witness to God's liberating presence in the world cannot turn away from the disturbing reality of the urban poor whose shacks have been forcibly dismantled, after which they are just left by the side of the road without shelter, money, food or care," said Iniguez.

"In the name of the God of justice, we vehemently oppose and denounce and demand the government stop all demolition activities throughout the country," Bolocon said in a statement.

The prelates said the provision of relocation sites outside Manila for slum dwellers "is not viable because they don't have work opportunities there."

The slum dwellers say most relocation sites have no adequate water and electricity supplies, and are located far from schools and health centres.

Slum areas in the Philippines often have limited access to basic services and no legal land tenure.

Many residents live in areas where they are vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters such as along shorelines, around dumpsites, under bridges and on hillsides.

The urban poor in the Philippines now number about 20 million, according to UN Habitat, the UN agency dealing with human settlement.

*P*hilippines Bishops have heeded Pope Francis' call to spend more time with the poor by visiting slum dwellers in Manila.

Bishops Deogracias Iniguez, Elmer Bolocon and Artemio Luwaton were among several religious leaders who visited displaced slum dwellers living along canals in Quezon City.

The slum dwellers are resisting government attempts to tear down their homes and relocate them outside the capital.

The prelates said the current practice of demolishing poor urban communities is "gravely inhuman, unfair, unjust and oppressive in the eyes of God and civil society."

- Source: UCANEWS

Mission Intention for September

That Christians suffering persecution in many parts of the world may by their witness be prophets of Christ's love.



From the Director

World Youth Day is not over

*W*orld Youth Day is not over, it moves into a new phase full of possibilities. The challenge is to enjoy the memories and experiences of travelling to and from Rio and for some pilgrims to ask themselves these questions: as a result of this pilgrimage, what has changed in me? What do I want to do as a result?

Some pilgrims will feel a sense of transformation, experiencing their faith in God and the Church in a new perspective. I hope that Columban missionaries might be able to assist pilgrims to take the experience further through discussion and reflection.

Many pilgrims were happy with the programme they followed in Santiago, Chile, on the way to Rio. They met local Chilean parishioners in Columban parishes, materially poor people, who were their hosts and proud to be receiving Australian and New Zealand pilgrims into their parishes. They cooked meals, danced, prayed, shared the Holy Eucharist together, sharing their common Catholic faith in cultural ways that were similar and very different. (Australians are not much given to national dances).

An exchange between peoples is very worthwhile because it is always rich in human content. For young and older pilgrims from Australia and New Zealand it was an opportunity to see real poverty on a large scale, something they have never seen before.

How often we believe that we have to be the givers and poor people the receivers. Yet the opposite is even more true – the pride in being able to host strangers on pilgrimage! No one can take this wonderful experience from the Chileans.

Nothing is better than seeing for yourself. I would be surprised if some of the pilgrims were not shocked. Invariably a question arises about how can people be happy in these surroundings? It is always a good question. One part of the answer might be that people who are materially poor often have to struggle together to 'get through', they

need each other more than we do in our more affluent countries. But I would not want to romanticise poverty.

The opportunity for people to host pilgrims from other countries even though they are poor is a cause for tremendous excitement. How often we believe that we have to be the givers and poor people the receivers. Yet the opposite is even more true – the pride in being able to host strangers on pilgrimage! No one can take this wonderful experience from the Chileans.

Where to from here? Perhaps some Australian and New Zealand groups would like to return. For example, a group from a parish could follow a similar programme or not necessarily to the same parishes. It is really about sharing who we are in mutual respect, it is not about richer people assisting poorer people but sharing our faith. Praying together brings us together. Constructive imaginations make many new possibilities. It is unlikely that any of these Chilean people would ever get to Australia or New Zealand because they don't have the money and probably would not get a visa.

Most pilgrims will complain less about their lot in life at least for awhile. What was learned in Chile can be applied to our Australian or New Zealand situations. It is easier to make a difference at home. Lots of questions arise: why are so many people in Chile poor? Surely it cannot be because they have all 'made bad choices'? Of course not!

World Youth Day is not over. A new phrase of possibilities is opening up. Our task as Columbans is to provide a forum for the pilgrims who experienced the Columban Mission Experience in Chile in which they can answer the questions in their minds and hearts. This is being on mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Walker".

Fr Gary Walker
director@columban.org.au

New Archbishop for Fiji

FR PATRICK COLGAN

Columban Fr Patrick Colgan, currently on the Columban General Council, Hong Kong, writes about the Episcopal Ordination of the new Archbishop of Suva.



Bishop Soane Paini Mafi of Tonga and Niue (left), Archbishop Emeritus Petero Mataca (second), the new Archbishop Peter Loy Chong and Bishop John Dew of Wellington (right).

The church and nation of Fiji literally came to a standstill on Saturday June 8, 2013 for the ordination of the new Archbishop of Suva, Peter Loy Chong, son of a Chinese immigrant and a part-Chinese, part-Fijian mother.

Bishop Loy was consecrated by the retiring Archbishop Petero Mataca, after his 36 years of Episcopal leadership, which encompassed many changes in Fijian society, unfortunately including four military coups.

It was an occasion long awaited and all ethnic communities joined

enthusiastically in the preparations for the liturgy, feeding and accommodation of the estimated 15,000 who flocked from every province and parish in the land to the Vodafone Sports Arena on that day.

I decided to fly over from Hong Kong to show my support, and, on arrival, promptly got asked to join the musicians' group for the liturgy, which I was more than happy to do.

Long hours of practice with the 300 strong choir, guitarists and players of Indian traditional instruments, along with 13 members of the Fiji Police Brass Band (only two of whom were

Catholic) ensued during the week. It had already been a two month 'labour of love' for all the above people, not to mention the organizers of the cultural protocols surrounding such an ordination which are every bit as complex as the liturgy itself.

In Fiji, at least, God is providing one of their sons as a true partner with us in building bridges of racial and political reconciliation.

Columbans were prominently present: Fr Donal McIlraith, Director in Fiji, as English commentator for the TV and live streaming of the event; Fr Ioane

Vale - Fr Patrick

Gukibau as director of liturgy for the weekend, and Lanietia Tamatawale (Lay Mission Coordinator) as one of the signers for the deaf. I was proud to see how committed and integrated our Columbans are in the diocese, especially in these moments when all talents and energy is needed!

In the presence of the President and Prime Minister of the Republic, the outgoing Archbishop Emeritus Petero Mataka stressed to his successor the need to be a shepherd to all racial and socio-economic groups in the nation, something for which Columbans have been well-known.

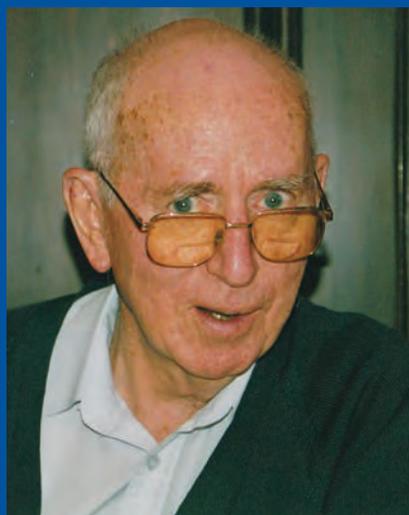
We wish Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, who in his own person unites the tiny island archipelago of Fiji with the great nation of China, many of whose emigrants have made great contributions to both the states and churches in which they have found themselves, every blessing in his ministry of pastor and teacher. Our recent General Assembly refocused the Chinese as a priority group for us Columbans.

In Fiji, at least, God is providing one of their sons as a true partner with us in building bridges of racial and political reconciliation.

Perhaps Fiji can indeed return to imaging 'the way the world should be,' in the words of the late Pope John Paul II in 1986, and continue to provide missionaries both to and from the Chinese people. That would indeed make our founders smile!

Columban Fr Patrick Colgan served in Fiji for many years. He is now on the General Council for St Columbans Mission Society in Hong Kong.

*Fr Patrick Claver Hickey
(20/04/1930 - 01/08/2013)*



Patrick (Pat) Claver Hickey died from a heart attack at the Epworth Hospital, Melbourne, on August 1, 2013 in his 84th year. His death took the Columban community by surprise since it was unexpected.

Fr Pat's life as a Columban missionary priest could be divided into three sections.

The first section from 1958 to 1979, was the 21 years he spent in the Southern Philippines on the island of Mindanao. He returned there briefly in 1982 before being appointed to the Australia and New Zealand Region. His years in the Philippines were like those of many Columban priests, focused on building up the local Catholic Church. He wrote an article in 1968 expressing this missionary outlook.

He wrote, "Beginning a new parish can be frustrating, exhilarating, challenging. Here in Mahayag, I have inherited a delightful two acre site with the possibility of extending it a little more, suitable for church, presbytery and high school. The first project was

to build a temporary house to live in, it cost \$340. But the first real project was to build the school. After a year, the school was in existence, just three rooms, a beginning, and 125 students. The teachers were qualified, all taught by the Columban Sisters in Ozamis City."

Next came the church. His letter describes how the people started to gather money to build the Church in dribs and drabs. They hoped to start soon. Then the plan was to build a proper presbytery.

His final sentence in that article is "Such is the work of starting off; frustrating, exhilarating, challenging, but on the whole satisfying."

The next phase of Fr Pat's life was as Regional Bursar in the Australia New Zealand Region from 1983 to 1988. He then spent a few years in Perth and Melbourne.

The third stage involved ministry in South Australia in the diocese of Port Pirie for 10 years. He was Parish Priest of Quorn/Carrieton and Minnipa, then of Streaky Bay until 2002. Later that year he retired to St Columban's, Essendon after having a stroke.

Fr Pat was a private person and well organised. He went on weekly excursions despite his lack of mobility due to his stroke. He used the train system extremely well. He was a man who read widely and had a particular interest in Australian Rules Football and cricket.

Fr Patrick's Funeral Mass was on August 7 at St Columban's, Essendon. He was laid to rest alongside other Columbans in the Columban section of the Carlton General Cemetery, Melbourne.

May he rest in peace.

Praying with the Columban Calendar

FR PATRICK O'SHEA

Columban Fr Patrick O'Shea reflects on the significance of the 2014 Columban Art Calendar.

The 2014 *Columban Art Calendar* arrived at St Columban's, Lower Hutt, New Zealand last month.

The Columban Calendar has been a part of Catholic life in this part of the world for over 90 years and has gained almost iconic status. When I went to see the show "*Late Night Catechism*" in Sydney some years ago and saw a Columban Calendar among the props it seemed to confirm its position in the Catholic imagination.

Many people have told me over the years that a Columban Calendar has always been part of the furniture in their Catholic home.

So I sat with the new calendar and pondered some of the things it provides beyond telling us about days and months.

1) Religious Art

From the beginning the decision was made to use *religious art*. The paintings used speak to us of many things but one must surely be beauty. We tend readily enough to identify God with goodness, truth and unity but beauty is also one of the faces of God.

Our God is an artist and the beauty of the world around us is a reminder and image of God. Human creativity reflects the divine. Using wood, glass, fabric, stone, paint, words and music, artists enrich our lives in so many ways. This creativity is visible in the design of buildings, the creation of gardens, the invention of technologies and in the discovery of cures for the ills that beset humanity and our planet.

A focus on beauty reminds us that we are God's work of art. We are special, unique and priceless in the eyes of God.

So I say, "thank you, creator God, for all that is beautiful in and around us".

2) The old masters

Mostly the art work used comes from *the old masters*. In a world where new technology continues to speed up the process of change and the desire for novelty, it is good to be reminded that there is great value in some old things. We are part of a tradition with ancient roots which has been passed on by generation after generation of believers. It changes along the way as we ourselves do in our own journey through life but there is a core identity that remains.

Jesus has particular praise for the "wise house holder who can draw from the storeroom things old and new".

So I say "thank you, God ever ancient and ever new, for things that endure, for friendships that have grown with time and for commitments made and kept in good times and in bad."

3) The liturgical year

Basic information about *the liturgical year* – the cycle of seasons, feasts, saint's days – has also been an enduring feature of the calendar. Over the course of a year the Church retells its story beginning in Advent, the season of promise, moving through Christmas and on to Lent and Easter, when the promise is fulfilled. The most important events are in red letters. In everyday life we talk of red letter days and calendars are commonly used to remember birthdays, special anniversaries and significant events.

So I say, "thank you, rejoicing God, for all the special times in our lives, for all the events and occasions that bring people together to celebrate and for storytellers who preserve and pass on precious memories".

4) The phases of the moon

The calendar also features *the phases of the moon*. These have traditionally been important for farmers and gardeners. It is believed that when a large piece of earth was dislodged to become our moon it caused the earth to tilt on its axis and so made possible the seasons we now experience. The moon not only produced the tilt but it now acts to keep it stable. The gravitational pull of the moon also affects tides and perhaps the moods of the human heart.

The influence that we call gravity in the natural world we call attraction or love in human relationships. To ponder the moon and its phases is to wonder at all of the things that tug on our hearts and in particular the pull of the divine. St Augustine spoke of the restlessness in us that can only be satisfied by God.

So I say, "thank you, enticing God, for the great and small mysteries which surrounds us and for all that keeps us in our proper orbit around you."

Columban Fr Patrick O'Shea lives at St Columban's, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.



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Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch

Rattno's story

FR ROBERT MCCULLOCH

Columban Fr Robert McCulloch with Rattno and his father.

Unlike three other children in his family, 12-year-old Rattno was lucky to survive in November 2012 when the shack their family called home burnt down. Rattno is a Hindu boy of the Parkari Koli tribal people in south-east Pakistan who are desperately poor, enslaved to feudal Muslim landlords, dispossessed, and who lost everything they had during the floods of 2010 and 2011.

Rattno's parents moved to Jhirruk, 40km south of Hyderabad, when they heard that St. Elizabeth Hospital was building houses to re-house flood affected people. Although the hospital had constructed 820 houses in other places, only 30 could be built in Jhirruk until more funds became available.

Shivji and Shonti's (Rattno's parents) hope turned to disaster when their children were lighting a kerosene pressure lamp which exploded. Saiba, Lakhnu and Shonti, aged from 7-15, died in the fire. Rattno survived.

St. Elizabeth Hospital arranged for Rattno's extensive skin grafts and medical care. Although he is recovering well, he has been in the hospital since February. St. Elizabeth wants to continue his good medical care, to ensure infection control and to provide the food and comfort which he

would not get in the desert settlement of Jhirruk. His parents take turns to remain at the hospital with him.

Happiness and hope have come back to Rattno. I often ask myself: "If only we had the money then to build all the houses in Jhirruk so that Rattno and his family would have a permanent home?"

The skin grafting on Rattno's legs, face and left hand is a success. He still needs extensive orthopaedic surgery on his left leg. The cost of his care will be AUD\$9,787/NZD11,114. Since May he has commenced his school education whilst in hospital.

None of the other 540 adults, teenagers and children living in the permanent houses in Jhirruk or still waiting for their houses to be built has been to school.

We know that Rattno's story will have a happy ending for him as he recovers. We hope that it will see a new beginning through education for him and the children of his village.

Columban Fr Robert McCulloch was a missionary in Pakistan for 34 years. He is currently the Procurator General of St Columbans Mission Society in Rome.

Homes for the homeless

Many impoverished tribal people in Sindh province in south east Pakistan are still homeless after the floods of 2010-2011 where they lost everything. The family of 12-year-old Rattno lost the shack they were living in when it burnt down, killing three of his siblings.

With the help of Columban and other benefactors, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hyderabad, is able to care for many of these people through its Mobile Medical Outreach. Even though St. Elizabeth Hospital has also built many homes for flood victims, many more need to be built for families such as those of Rattno.

Columbans are able to support St. Elizabeth Hospital and its work with the poor, through the support of generous benefactors.



Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch

Your **kindness** and **support** make it possible for Columbans to meet and minister to many people. Your "stringless" gift helps us to respond with flexibility to the most **urgent needs** of people.



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