



## Priestly Fraternity of St Peter Newsletter

District of Oceania – Assumption 2023

### *From the District Superior...*



***“Who can conceive, my brethren, that God should so repay the debt, which He condescended to owe to His Mother, for the elements of His human body, as to allow the flesh and blood from which it was taken to moulder in the grave?... Or who can conceive that that virginal frame, which never sinned, was to undergo the death of a sinner?... Why should she share the curse of Adam, who had no share in his fall?”***

*(Sermon for the Assumption [1849], in Discourses to Mixed Congregations)*

With these words St John Henry Newman explains why the dogma of the bodily Assumption of Our Lady is so fitting. God the Son took His pure flesh from hers and He preserved her from sin of any kind, and these great mysteries find their logical fulfillment in the manner of her leaving this life for the next. “Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.” (CCC #966) She who never sinned, did not suffer the punishment of bodily corruption.

So the dogma of Our Lady’s bodily Assumption, presented to us each August by the Church, should fill us with both joy and hope. Joy that one of our number has already entered heaven, and hope that we too, relying on her tender pleading, will one day join her. Let us rejoice in so powerful an advocate and so tender a mother. Let us also, under Mary’s protection, strive to live as her faithful children.

*Regina in caelum assumpta, ora pro nobis!*

Fr Michael McCaffrey FSSP  
District Superior

## Pilgrimage *to France*

For two weeks this year in the month of May, a group of pilgrims from the FSSP communities in Auckland and Adelaide were on pilgrimage in France. The group, led by Fr Antony Sumich FSSP, concluded their two weeks by participating in the annual pilgrimage between Paris and Chartres. On that pilgrimage, they were joined by two more parishioners from Auckland and eight other walkers from FSSP parishes in the USA.

The group met in the southern French city of Toulouse, where they stayed the first night. After holy Mass the next morning, they departed for Montauban and the Armagnac Region and ended up in Lourdes where they stayed the next four nights. With daily Masses in Lourdes and plenty of time to pray in the shrine, there were



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## *Pilgrimage to France*

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also further opportunities to venture around the South of France. On one day, they visited the Basque country and the beautiful cities of Biarritz and Bayonne.

After Sunday Mass at the FSSP parish in Tarbes, they drove to the Mediterranean city of Perpignan where they stayed a further three nights. From there they journeyed out to La Grasse Abbey and the walled medieval city of Carcassonne. Finally, after a visit to the exclave of Llivia, they returned to Toulouse for two nights enjoying the great culinary delights.

The whole group took a train from Toulouse to Paris the Friday before Pentecost and early the next morning they were at the Church of St Sulpice for the opening Mass of the Chartres Pilgrimage. They were blessed with wonderful weather for the whole three days of the pilgrimage which was attended by record numbers both of clerics and laity. Official numbers



from the organisers said there were over 16,000 registered walkers and over 200 clerics. Through long, hot, tiring days and with creaking joints and painful blisters the group never lost sight of their spiritual goals of praying for the growth and protection of the Latin Mass apostolates in our Oceania District. We especially prayed for the intentions of our nearest and dearest at Lourdes and during the walking pilgrimage. The trip was a great success and many friendships were formed.

We all hope we will be blessed to be able to participate again on such a holy work.

Fr Anthony Sumich FSSP

## History of the Chartres Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to Chartres has a long history. The town lies south-west of Paris and is on the route of the famous medieval pilgrimage trail to Santiago da Compostela in Spain. From the 12th Century, Chartres Cathedral became a pilgrimage destination in its own right due to being the location of the Sancta Camisa, a holy garment reportedly worn by the Virgin Mary. The pilgrimage ceased to be regularly made, possibly in the turbulent years surrounding the anti-Catholic French Revolution.

In the 1980s a group of French Catholics participated in a pilgrimage to our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland. Each year tens of thousands of Catholics make this pilgrimage to the most important Polish Marian shrine. The French pilgrims were so inspired by the faith and fellowship of the attendees that they decided to revive the ancient pilgrimage to Chartres.

From the beginning, the organisers desired to have the Traditional Latin Mass offered as a sign of unity with their ancestors who would have prayed the same form of the Mass with the same

Gregorian chant melodies. The Chartres pilgrimage has inspired others that are also associated with the Latin Mass, including the pilgrimage to our Lady of Walshingham, UK, Christus Rex Australia, and more recently a pilgrimage to Covadonga, Spain.

Pilgrimages are very biblical. The Mosaic law required Israelites to make pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem three times a year. The Holy Family and the Disciples of our Lord completed these pilgrimages, too, and from the earliest years of the Church, Catholics have made pilgrimages to holy Christian sites.

With a pilgrimage, we undergo an arduous journey to a holy place. The difficulty is an important aspect since it is penitential and purgative; designed to purify us for our eventual arrival at the holy shrine. Our lives on earth are a pilgrimage, a long journey towards heaven that is marked by times of joy, occasional suffering and pain, fellowship, emotion, and consolation.

by Fr Roger Gilbride FSSP



# Fr Nathan Pospischil: A brief history

Fr Nathan Josef Pospischil was born in December 1992 to John and Nadia Pospischil in Sydney, New South Wales, and grew up there with his two elder brothers and his younger sister. Fr Pospischil was raised in the Catholic faith by his parents who first introduced him to the Latin Mass and the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in 2005. The pious example of his parents and grandparents played a key role in his religious formation and Priestly discernment.

Fr Pospischil completed his Primary and Secondary School education at John the Baptist Primary School



the help of Fr Martin Klein FSSP, the then chaplain of the Parramatta Apostolate which he had been attending for 10 years, Fr Pospischil continued his discernment towards the priesthood. He visited Ezechiel House where he came to know more about the life and work of an FSSP priest. Fr Pospischil applied to join the seminary in 2016 and completed his first year of seminary studies at Ezechiel House under Fr Duncan Wong FSSP and then went on to Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary (OLGS) in the United States for the remainder of his studies in 2017.

At OLGS, Fr Pospischil



and Patrician Brother's College. He graduated from High School in 2010 and then completed a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, majoring in Economics at the University of Sydney and a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education at the Australian Catholic University. During this time Fr Pospischil was involved in fund-raising for local charities and was one of the main altar servers at the Parramatta FSSP apostolate. He graduated from university in 2014 and was then employed at the Office of State Revenue, the New South Wales Taxation Office, where he worked for almost two years.

While working, Fr Pospischil began to discern a Priestly vocation. He began to be drawn to the priesthood by reading books on the life of Christ, learning more about the Mass, and seeing the example of FSSP priests. With

was a member of the sacristy department and spent time on apostolate in Vancouver, Parramatta, Minneapolis, Omaha, and Adelaide. As a Deacon, he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Lincoln where he gained more experience in parish life as he prepared for ordination.

He was ordained to the sacred priesthood on the 24th of June 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. Please keep Fr Pospischil in your prayers as he begins his priestly ministry.

## Retreat for Men

17th November to 21st November

*The Night of Faith in St John of the Cross*  
Hartzer Park, NSW

For more information please contact

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# A Shared Brotherhood

## *Fraternity Seminarians visit Oceania*

This summer, I had the opportunity to travel nearly 15,000 km from the United States to Australia with my classmate Toan Cao for our summer apostolate. The apostolate included serving as one of the MC's for newly ordained Father Nathan Pospichil's ordination to the priesthood on June 24th, teaching classes at the weeklong philosophy camps in Sydney (Lewisham) and Adelaide facilitated by Father Thomas Sofatzis, assisting as subdeacon for Solemn Masses, and other various assignments.

It was a wonderful experience for me and Toan. Not only did we gain beneficial pastoral experience, but we had a wonderful time learning about Aussie and Kiwi culture and more "nuances" of the English language. Some of our excursions included visits to the Basin across from Palm Beach north of Sydney where we fed and petted wild wallabies, took a cold-water swim, and had bbq'd kangaroo with Father Bisig and fifteen members (priests and seminarians) of the Fraternity. We also ascended the Eye of Sydney tower, visited the Carmelites in Mathoura, toured Orange World in Buronga (Father Joseph Lee's favourite!), and held a Koala at Gorge Nature Reserve north of Adelaide and enjoyed the waters of the West Coast Beaches in Auckland.

I think my favourite memories of the trip, however, are the moments I shared with the priests, seminarians, and faithful of the District. Toan and I were blessed to spend time with our old seminary brothers Frs Thomas Sofatzis, Brendan Boyce, Noel Soares, and Nathan Pospichil. I would be remiss not to mention the generosity of Father McCaffrey, Father Wong, Fr Leung, Father Popplewell and Father Sumich for hosting us in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Buronga, and Auckland.

Thank you all for hospitality. My five-week visit to Oceania was a great inspiration to me. It showed me the strength of our shared brotherhood and mission in an international setting. Thank y'all, and I will pray for God to continue to bless the District of Oceania.

by Mr Steven Kalinowski

