

COMPANIONS OF ST LAURENCE

LIBRARY

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Newsletter No. 17

FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that the St Laurence Day Eucharist will be held on SATURDAY, 16th AUGUST, commencing at the earlier time of 11.30 a.m. The service will again be held at St Peter's, Eastern Hill, with lunch and meeting at B.S.L. Headquarters.

Also note Sunday 14th December at 7.00 p.m. for the B.S.L. Foundation Festival at Christ Church, South Yarra.

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AROUND THE BROTHERHOOD

At the Annual Staff Conference held at Carrum Downs on April 18th, Connie Benn shared with us some of the thinking of the Family Centre staff and members as they plan for the next three years. Alwyn Hind presented figures on income and expenditure and pointed out that our deficit for this financial year could be \$8,000 to \$10,000. Proposals made by staff in discussion groups are now being considered as to how we can improve the general and financial position of B.S.L.

Bruce Buchanan's resignation has meant a re-organisation in the Accounts/Administration department involving several staff changes.

Peter Hollingworth has received an Australian Government award to obtain his M.A. This year he is doing his prelim. year on a full-time basis, but is continuing to undertake some of his duties.

A Frankston Salvage Division will commence operations on July 1st. It will cover the area from the Patterson River through the Mornington Peninsular and will be used to finance G.K.Tucker Park. Its Manager will be Bette McInerney, a Companion.

The new Chaplain at G.K.Tucker Park is the Reverend Alan Hoskin. Having lost both his church and vicarage in Cyclone Tracey, he is now Vicar of the new parish of Langwarrin, formerly part of Hastings.

Graham Walker will resume his duties as General Manager of the Salvage Division when Philip Martyn's appointment ends on 31st May.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Winifred Rogers left for England on 27th April and expects to be back in time for our August gathering.

Albert Sage and his family keep in touch with regular newsletters. A new phosphate mine being developed at Duchess will increase his work, this being one of the outback areas he visits by light aircraft.

Luke Young has moved from Bendigo to Swan Hill where he is Manager of the Alcheringa Homes which expect to open at the end of June.

Gerry Beaumont has returned from Carpentaria and is now Vicar of St Alban's, Armadale with St Martin's, Hawksburn.

Selwyn Reynolds, who joined the Brotherhood in 1934 and stayed until the mid-forties, has moved to Carrum Downs. His last parish was Bunyip in the Gippsland Diocese. He has become joint editor the the Park News and the May issue has an article on the early beginnings of the Settlement.

Adrian Harris has been appointed Director of C.A.A., replacing Jim Webb who resigned at the end of March after serving for 5 years.

Since the beginning of the year we have lost three Companions. The Reverend William Singleton, who accompanied his wife Ula to our St. Laurence Day service last year, died in January. He had served most of his ministry in the Riverina Diocese.

Keith Reynolds was accidentally drowned on 3rd February. Keith had entered fully into the ideals and activities of the Companions and we will miss him. A number of Companions attended his funeral.

Saxil Tuxen, who died on February 23rd, aged 89, had been associated with the Brotherhood since it first came to Melbourne. Among other activities, he was the Brotherhood's Honorary Consulting Engineer and a member of the Board. His son writes: 'I know how much my father enjoyed his association with you and the pleasure he gained from his work with the Brotherhood.'

We also record the deaths of Marcia Brown's husband, Lynn Harrison's mother, Barry Martin's father, Ernest King's mother and Merron Rusden's father.

Edited and typed by Shirley Abraham, with apologies for the poor presentation, but the Rank-Xerox machine is out of order.

The preacher at the 44th Foundation Festival last December was the Reverend Eric Christianson. Her is the text of his SERMON.

"We all know that the B.S.L. ceased to be a religious order in 1946 when Fr. Tucker found himself the sole remaining member of the order he had founded. But that Fr. Tucker remained the leader of the new organisation which took its place, indicates that the ideals he stood for still remain.

"By commemorating the founding of the Brotherhood, as we are doing today, we are not looking with nostalgic eyes back to those days when it was still a religious order, but we are here to thank God that those who have been responsible for the Brotherhood's recent development have never forgotten what is man's true goal here in life.

"We all know that you can't preach to someone who is hungry - you must do something first to relieve his hunger, then he may listen to you. I said 'may listen', because it depends how we preach the gospel. The preaching which is always most effective is 'being' the good news - not just talking about it. We Christians could be of great service to suffering mankind if only we could learn to be in Christ - letting Christ dwell in us - as Paul puts it in one of his letters. All men of goodwill can help to relieve suffering, but only those who have learnt to be in Christ can do more than just feed men's bodies or given them decent living conditions - those who dwell in Christ can give purpose to living - show man who suffers a better way - a way of fulfilling his God-given life.

"Those who solely work for the fulfilment of mankind's material needs in line with the policies of the social welfare state, will find that man is never satisfied. A Christian knows that man craves more than material comforts because life is more than meat and body more than raiment. Not that the Christian ignores the needs of our physical body - far from it - but a Christian wants to give more - he wants to show men to Christ who can give us all life more abundantly.

"Those of us who seek God's kingdom first are, in fact, more concerned with the needs of men that those who only concentrate on man's material needs - a Christian wants to help the whole of man and not just a part.

"I am not here to assess whether the B.S.L. is in fact seeking to serve the whole of man - but it seems to me that an organisation or individual who wishes to promote the cause of Christ must have on

its program to serve the whole of man and not just supply his material needs. And to do this we must be in Christ.

"As we all know, that is not easy, because the demands made upon Christians who seek to serve their fellowmen are often such that they swamp any efforts of prayer or Christian devotion.

"I believe this was a problem the B.S.L. had to face as soon as it became involved in social work. Some of its members in those early days felt very frustrated that there was so little time for prayer, and those who work in the organisation today must feel this at times too. I believe it is in this conflict between social work and prayer that the B.S.L. faces an ongoing challenge - if the workload is allowed to push aside all time for prayer and quiet reflection, then the B.S.L. may well go on doing a great deal to improve the standard of living for the depressed poor, but it will not give men purpose in living because only Christ can do that.

"It seems to me that if the B.S.L. is truly to serve our community, then its supporters need to surround its active members with prayer. Let us not underestimate the danger of neglecting to pray, because if we do that, we will soon lose our sense of direction and if this happens, then we will be failing those we are trying to help."

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INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray

FOR the Brotherhood of St Laurence - its staff, its Board and Committee members; those it helps and those who support it, and especially at this time for the Administration Department, the Family Centre Project and the Frankston Salvage Division.

THAT the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and other voluntary organisations may find ways of meeting their financial problems.

FOR all those whose lives have been disrupted by violence, especially those in Indo-China.

FOR Community Aid Abroad and other overseas aid organisations.

FOR the new Parish of Langwarrin; for all parishes in the inner suburbs and for parishes in the outback.

FOR the sick, the suffering and those who mourn.

AUGUST 10 - ST LAURENCE, Deacon and Martyr

The Collect:

O God, who gavest grace to thy servant Laurence to be a wise guardian of the treasures of the Church, a faithful attendant upon his chief, and a bold witness in his Martyrdom to the Christian faith: Stir us by his example to whole-hearted devotion, and by thy refining fire prepare us for the judgement that is to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Laurence, patron saint of the poor, was martyred in Rome in A.D. 258. Called upon to deliver to his persecutors the treasures of the Church, he produced a company of poor Christians, saying: "These are the treasures of the Church".

Refusing to recant, and refusing to give up the treasures demanded of him, St Laurence was laid on a frame like a gridiron and slowly burnt to death.

St Laurence had the gift of humour. When roasting on the gridiron he is reported to have said, "Turn me over and do me on the other side".

In "Thanks Be", Father Tucker wrote: "It was for a purely sentimental reason that St Laurence was chosen as the Brotherhood's patron saint. I have very happy memories of the little Church of St Laurence in the Parish of South Yarra. I used to attend the bazaars and other social functions and sometimes would accompany my father to services he conducted there. With those thoughts in mind, I chose St Laurence as our patron. As we passed from parochial work to social service work I began to realize that we could not have chosen a more appropriate Saint as our patron."

Brotherhood of St Laurence Prayer

O God, Who didst enable Thy deacon St Laurence to suffer for Thee and Thine: Grant, we beseech Thee, to Thy servants of the Brotherhood of St Laurence so to cherish the flock committed to their care, that their sanctuary may be a treasure house of all pleasant store, and that joy may be theirs now, and in the day when Thou makest up Thy jewels. through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Extra copies available on request)