



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
OCEANIA PROVINCE

OCEANIA PROVINCE WEEKLY NEWS

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Br Frank Hennessy in Timor Leste

The consultant – **Ariana**, was scheduled to work for 3 days with the card ladies addressing the present operation & the future possibilities. The untimely death of one card lady curtailed the program but sufficient time was given to the review for a report to be tabled with *TTN*, *MMI* & *CBOP*. CER thanks **Damien Price** (3rd – 9th) for his guidance in the process. The draft report from **Ariana** was tabled with the interested parties (31st) & now awaits comment towards a final document.

You already received the photos courtesy of **Peter** of the celebration of *Edmund Rice Day* (4th) in the village of *Deleso*. The community event was guided very well by **Francisco**. People from each of the 5 villages joined together for the mass, visit to the cemetery, blessing of the library, speeches then finally a beautiful meal. On the day we presented certificates to 14 people for 10 years of service with CER & gave each person attending an **Edmund Rice** prayer card.



This month there are 6 public holidays – 3 either side of the election, the other 3 National & Religious days. Traditionally people do a Bethlehem & return to their village for voting so travel time is at a premium. Eventually this infant nation will need to address the issue of ‘disruptive’ days.

The enthusiasm & active interest of the young in the election process leading to the vote on the 12th was remarkable. Finally a coalition party – *Change for Progress Alliance* (AMP) under **Xanana Gusmao** (34 seats of 64) has taken power & now we hope will govern for the advantage of the people. The *Fretilin Party* (23 seats) lost the election. There was an excellent voter turnout – 81% (voting is not compulsory). As we reach the end of the month the National Government has not been formed & read in. There have been many positive comments from international observers of the success & peacefulness across the country of the democratic process. We were pleased to have **Bernard Gartland** from the Province join us for 5 days (27th – 31st). He visited **Barry’s** students at the seminary & **Peter & myself** in the mountains. His personal support for us as *Brothers* & his engagement with the *Timorese people* in the villages was wonderful – thanks **Bernie**.

Alipio Baltazar – Director of *Mary MacKillop International* (MMI) in discussions with us has asked that we check the condition of each of the TEKA centres & complete maintenance issues in the 6 months leading up to the hand over time. This gives **Peter** & his team of workers a chance to look at maintenance matters requested by the teachers. They have commenced in *Deleso* in the Pre-school by replacing a door, door frame & internal wall lining. A verandah across the front of the TEKA room entrance will see the end of this project..



At the request of the *Samelete* community we have supplied materials for them to refurbish their community centre located in *Samelete 1*.

In this last week of May we had some heavy bouts of rain to belie the dry season. On Thursday evening in Dili the downpour lasted over 2 hours – amazing!

Frank Hennessy cfc



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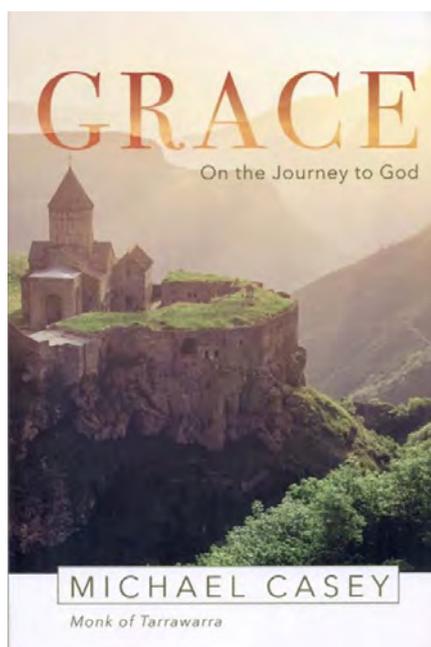
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Book Review: GRACE: ON THE JOURNEY TO GOD

By Michael Casey OCSO, St Pauls, \$24.95

Reviewed by Br Brian Grenier CFC



In the most poignant scene of Georges Bernanos's novel, *The Diary of a Country Priest*, the unnamed protagonist, dying without the consolation of the last rites, is moved to say: 'What does it matter. All is grace.' In similar vein, Father Michael Casey, a monk of Tarrawarra Abbey in Australia, states in his introduction to the book under review: 'The benevolence of God expresses itself in so many different ways as our journey unfolds.'

He explores the truth of that statement in fifteen engagingly insightful essays which grew out of retreat conferences he gave to religious. The chapters, all of which are headed with the introductory words 'Grace of ...', treat in order the following subjects: discontinuity, desire, humanity, alternation, temptation, self-knowledge, prayer as petition, prayer as dedication, prayer as contemplation, faith, revelation, leisure, silence, community, and communion.

By speaking about the 'experiences we may have on our spiritual journey', Father Casey hopes to 'increase our levels of spiritual literacy' and to assist us to listen more attentively to the voice of God in our human hearts. Most readers, I believe, will agree that he achieves these objectives admirably. At the same time, he rightly points out that what we hear in the depths of our own spirit as we read and reflect is more important than anything he writes; for it is truly the gift of God.

Though Father Casey draws on the works of some more recent writers (notably Thomas Merton), it is the wisdom of the long-standing Cistercian spiritual tradition that informs the pages of this excellent book as a whole. In this connection, he concludes with some notes on his 'principal sources', most of which will be unfamiliar to some readers.

Each of the chapters is concluded with a prayer relative to the content. These are worth copying out for future use.

May I recommend to readers who find this book thought-provoking an earlier work by the same author which I found particularly helpful—*Fully Human, Fully Divine: An Interactive Christology* (2004).

Grace: On the Journey to God is available at St Paul's Bookshop near the Cathedral of St Stephen.

Brian Grenier cfc



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Profession of First Vows for Br Robert Droel

Below is an invitation for the Profession of First Vows for Br Robert Droel.

A page with further information and on which to RSVP has been set up at: <http://evite.me/ZfqB14Qck7>
Please share the good news (and this open invitation) with all!

Province Center
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America
www.ercbna.org
ercbnacfc@gmail.com

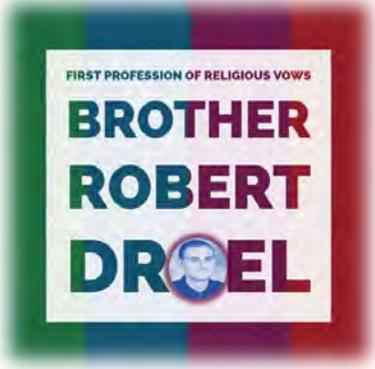
WITH JOY & IN THANKSGIVING FOR
THE GIFT OF RELIGIOUS VOCATION,



EDMUND RICE
CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS
NORTH AMERICA



**CORDIALLY INVITE YOU
TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION
OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
ON THE OCCASION OF**



Saturday
July 28th, 2018
6:00 p.m.



Sacred Heart Parish
8245 West 111th Street
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE
MSGR. JAMES V. MOSCOW PARISH CENTER

PLEASE RSVP ONLINE AT:
<http://evite.me/ZfqB14Qck7>

**POVERTY CHASTITY OBEDIENCE
PRESENCE COMPASSION LIBERATION**

EREA June eNews



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Edmund Rice Justice Aoteroa NZ



Read the June Edmund Rice Justice Aoteroa
Newsletter [HERE](#).