

Parish Advisory Council Report 2022

We welcomed three new members to the Parish Advisory Council in 2022 and all members were commissioned at parish masses in late February. Current members of the Advisory Council are Jane Connolly (chair), Paul Jensen, Cara Fox, Michael Kearney, Christine Clarke, the Carmelite priests, and school principal Warren Field. In keeping with our focus on the Carmelite charism the year was declared *The Year of Community* with the Council being intentional about highlighting the strengths of the Mt. Carmel Coorparoo community throughout the year.

Parishioner David Hutton reflected on the Year of Community early in the year noting that the Carmelite tenets of Prayer, Community and Service are not three separate concepts. Our relationship with Jesus in prayer is only authentic if it turns us outwards towards others in community. Being in relationship in turn impels us to be of service to others in our community. David quoted Pope Francis commenting that our year of community should focus on forging bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams.

To this end the Advisory Council highlighted the varying ministry groups active in building community at Mt Carmel. Each week a ministry was highlighted in the newsletter with input from ministry coordinators. The ongoing presence of COVID impacted further plans of informal gatherings of ministry groups as a way of making further community connections but as we learn to live with COVID, hopefully these planned events can occur. We did however gather as a community for a celebratory brunch for the canonisation of St. Titus Brandsma in May. Christine Clarke attended the canonisation in Rome as our parish representative.

The news received in May that Father Martinho would be the administrator of Regina Caeli Parish for the next three years led to significant discussion and planning which was communicated with the parish. The impact of this arrangement on the Mt. Carmel community and its priests remains in focus.

The parish feast day in July provided a further opportunity to gather as a community with another successful brunch gathering. In August we welcomed new deacon Brother Albino Dos Santos. Albino was ordained as priest in Melbourne in November.

In October we had Ministry Sunday with a presentation by David Hutton based on Pope Francis book *Fratelli Tutti*. David's presentation was well received and was followed by significant discussion and suggestions in response to the questions:

What do I value about the community of Mt Carmel?

What do I value about the ministry or ministries in which I am involved
how do they build a community of service to others?

Can these ministries be improved to better build this community of service
how do we do this?

Are there gaps in our ministries at Mt Carmel
what might they be?

A summary of the responses to the questions [was later circulated to the community](#). The Advisory Council will once again refer to these in discerning priorities and a way forward in 2023.

Following Ministry Sunday, the Ministry Book and Response Sheet were circulated to the community in a drive for new members of ministry. As we were reminded on Ministry Sunday, *The pandemic has changed so much of how we are as Church and Parish. It has given us time to reflect on what we hold central and precious about the part we play in bringing about fraternity and social friendship in a time of growing fragmentation.* Ministry groups in the parish are always in need of refreshment and renewal and this may well be a priority in 2023 – *The Year of Service*. [Expressions of interest](#) to be part of leadership groups in the parish are especially welcome.

In continuing to *forge bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams* the Advisory Council invites input from all in the community to discern strategies to nourish and enrich the ways in which we support the Carmelite charism through opportunities for prayer, community, and service, now and into the future. We are always interested to hear from you and would be particularly keen to hear any ideas you have for our Year of Service in 2023. Contact can be made by email to the parish office mtcarmel@bne.catholic.net.au

As a parishioner reminded us on Ministry Sunday, *There is no us without us.*