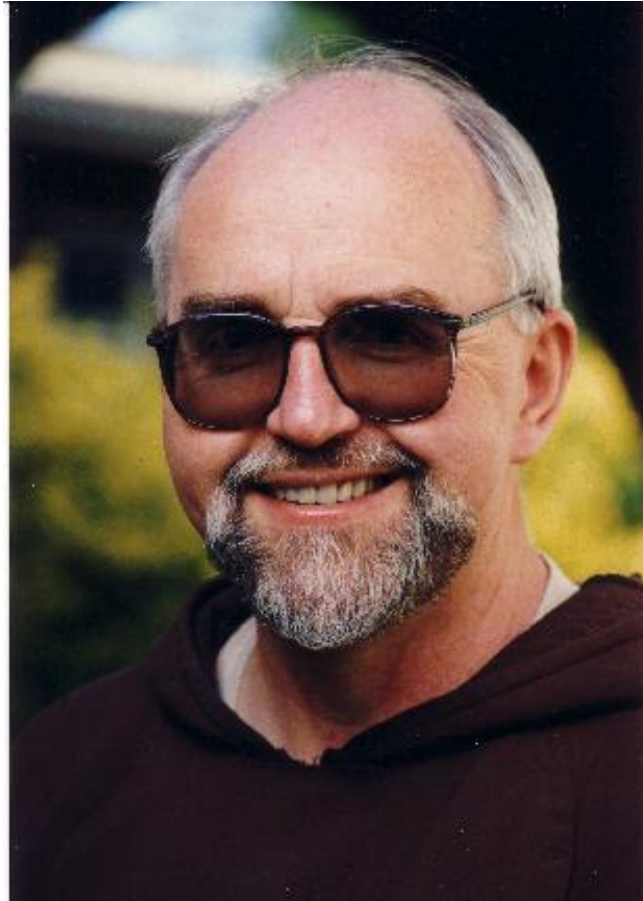


Capuchin Nominated as Bishop

11 November 2002

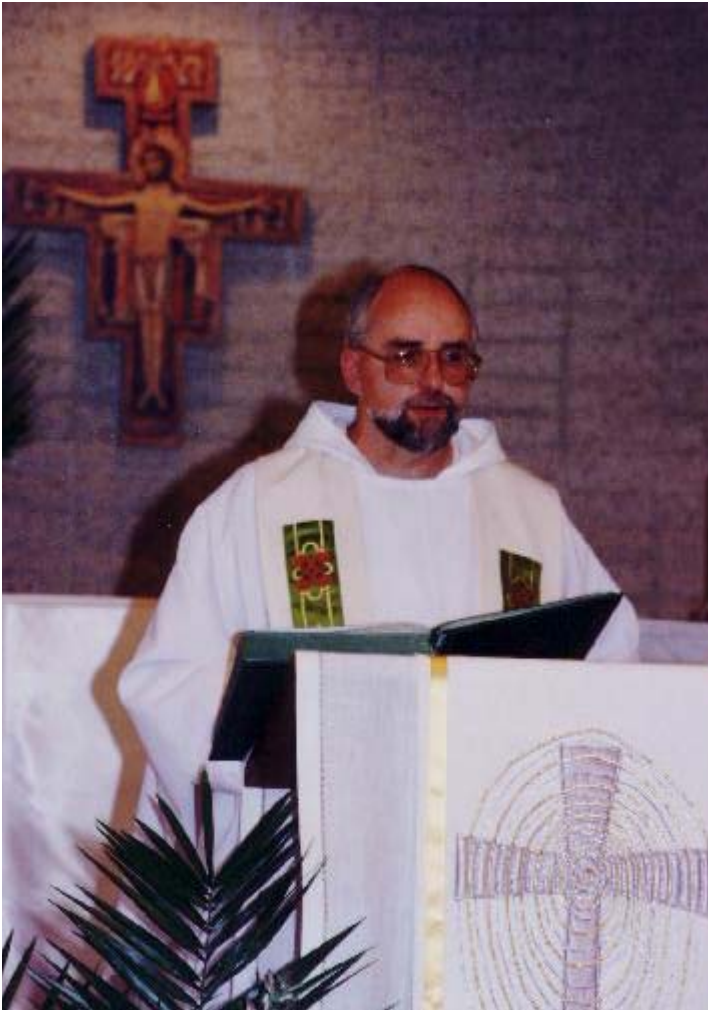


Fr Joseph Oudeman OFM Cap
CAPUCHIN NOMINATED BISHOP
+ The Second Capuchin Bishop in Australia +

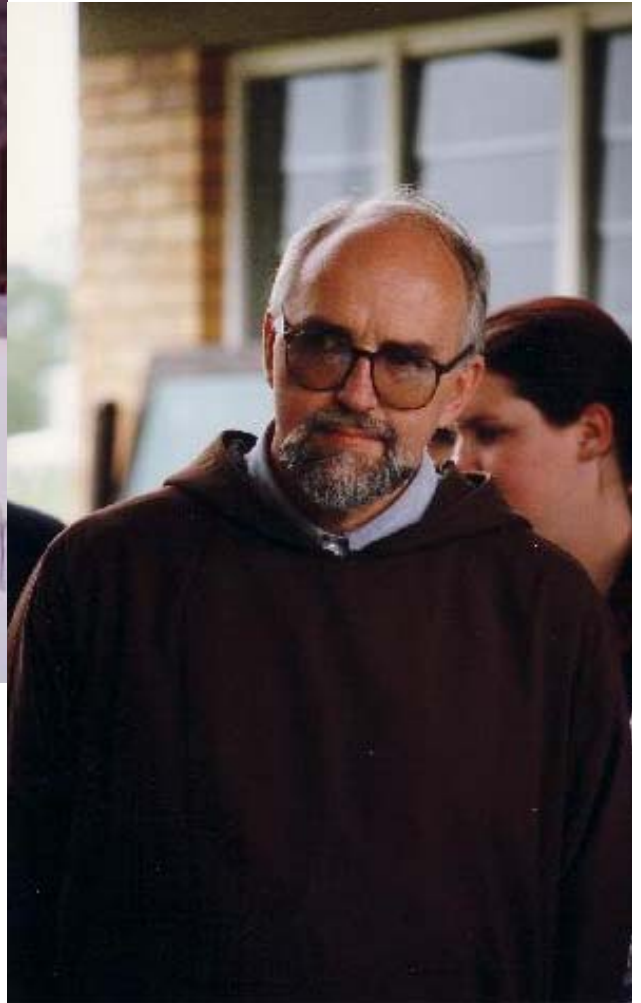
"Well, we had another job in mind for him for the next three years," said Br Julian Messina OFM Cap the newly elected Provincial of the Capuchins in Australia.

"We are very proud of him," he said. "In a very real sense he has been the main formator of the friars of the Capuchin Province of Australia for the past 30 years. He led us through the heavy days of Vatican II and beyond to where we are now."

"After his studies in Rome he was placed directly into formation work as our Postulant Master. He taught at the Marist Seminary when it was at Toongabbie and also at Hunters Hill. He has been Novice Master and Director of Students."



"Perhaps what will prepare him most for his ministry as a bishop is the fact that he was almost always on the Provincial Council and he was Provincial Minister of the Capuchins in Australia for nine years. In fact until 1996 he has been directly responsible for the friars of the province in one capacity or another."



"He has also been spiritual director to many religious and also diocesan seminarians especially in Brisbane. Perhaps what has caught the eye of the powers in charge of these things, has been that we have let him loose to work in a parish and as a migrant Chaplain to the Dutch Community in Brisbane Archdiocese for the past six years. In his enthusiasm he has completely revolutionised that apostolate bringing all the chaplains together in a deanery for the first time. In recognition of this he was then made the Dean of Ethnic Communities for the Archdiocese."

"Perhaps we should have kept him in formation so that we did not lose him, but then this is a wonderful result and we rejoice at such a loss to the Order for the sake of the Church and we will all be there to support him with our prayers and fraternity. It is a great honour for the Capuchins."

+ Sign of Hope +

Born in Breda Holland on the 2nd of March 1942. Br Joseph was named "Jan" (John) in Baptism by his parents Jan Oudeman and Johanna Van Baar. As the first of their children he was their personal sign of commitment and hope in a time of darkness for Europe as he was born during the Second World War. In all they had three sons and two daughters: Jan, Ann, Rene, Paul and Trudy. Their devotion to each other and love of children was something very touching to see. They were wonderful parents and

grandparents. They both died in Nazareth House in Wynnum, where the sisters cared them for and as it so happened Fr Joseph was able to be with them both as each passed to God.

Joseph arrived in Australia with his parents on the 13th of February 1956. In Australia his parents took up dairy farming as a way of life and "Joseph", attended St Patrick's Christian Brothers' College in Ballarat. However, he had attended the Capuchin Minor Seminary for two years in Holland and so he asked to join the Minor Seminary of the Capuchins in Plumpton west of Sydney. He completed his secondary studies at the Marist Brothers in Paramatta.

He entered the Capuchin novitiate in 1962 and received the Capuchin habit on the 7th of January 1963 then he studied philosophy under the Dominicans for a year at Camberwell in Victoria and also for a year under the Marist Fathers at Toongabbie, NSW. He completed his theology at St Laurence Theological College Wynnum North. He was ordained a priest on the 29th of June 1966 in his parent's parish of Iona in Victoria. As a post graduate he obtained an STL (Dogma) from the Gregorian University - Rome in 1968 and although he was well into the process of preparing to study for a Doctorate in Holland or Belgium this was interrupted by the Custos of the Capuchins in Australia because he was needed here in Australia immediately to assist in the formation of our young Capuchin students. Both the previous Provincial John Cooper and the present Provincial Br Julian Messina joined the Order that year in 1969.

Joseph speaks and reads: Dutch, English, Italian and Latin. German is not impossible for him to understand. As Provincial of Australia he participated in General Chapters of the Order and as President of the South Asian Pacific Capuchin Conference he gained a wider understanding of the Church especially in the Asian and Pacific region.

On a number of occasions in recent years he declared his willingness to go to the missions. That spirit will serve him well in his new ministry as auxiliary bishop of Brisbane.

He will be ordained bishop on the 11th of February 2003 and it will be an important day for the Capuchins in Australia.

It is significant that a few days after we will be entering into the centenary year of the death of Bishop Elzear Torregiani, second bishop of Armidale and the first Capuchin bishop (1879 – 1904). The Diocese of Armidale has kindly consented, through Fr. Patrick Colbourne's special skills of mediation, to loan Bishop's Torregiani pastoral staff to Fr. Joseph for the ordination ceremony at St. Stephen's Cathedral.