

## Golden Jubilees: Br Carmel Flora OFM Cap and the SFO

25 October 2002

### *Golden Jubilees*

Fr. Carmel Flora's special Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination.



From Left – Most Rev. Joseph Oudeman OFM Cap, Fr Carmel Flora. The Provincial – Fr Julian Messina, Fr Norbert OFM and Fr. Francis Merlin OFM Cap

Friars, members of the Secular Franciscans Order, parishioners, friends and relatives gathered at Guardian Angels Church, Wynnum Central on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, for a special Mass of thanksgiving on the occasion of Fr. Carmel Flora's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Professions of the Wynnum and Petrie Terrace Secular Franciscans.

After the Mass a delightful Morning Tea was served to the guests in the Parish Hall where a pictorial history of the Wynnum Fraternity was on display.

## **A brief History of the Wynnum and Petrie Terrace SFO Fraternities**

The Secular Franciscans Order was introduced to Wynnum by a young enthusiastic Fr Albert Coletta on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1951. On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1953, seventy-three novices made their first profession and became the first English speaking members received by the Capuchins in Australia. Mr. Frank Tracy who, with his wife, had transferred from the Kedron SFO became the first President of the Wynnum Fraternity. Sadly he drowned in December 1954 on his way to Thursday Island. By 1956 the Wynnum Fraternity boasted 110 professed members.

The monthly fraternity meetings were held at Guardian Angels until 1970 when the Fraternity moved to St Laurence Friary Wynnum North. With the closure of St. Laurence in late 2002, they have moved back to Guardian Angels Parish.

Fifty years on, Ellen Long and Vera Dixon, two of the professed from the first group, are still active members of the fraternity. Both hardly ever missing a meeting during all these years. Monica Dobbins, a former cook at Wynnum North who joined the second group of founding members was also present at the jubilee celebrations.

The **Petrie Terrace Italian Fraternity** of the Secular Franciscans was founded by Fr. Bonifacio Zurli OFM Cap at the Holy Name Crypt in the Valley on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1952. One year later 89 novices made profession with Rafaella Paolo and Maria Loddi elected as President and Vice-President respectively. With the closure of the Crypt the fraternity meetings transferred to Petrie Terrace in 1978.

Two of the founding members were present at the Jubilee celebrations – Maria Panebianco and Assunta Taraborelli. Maria is still an active member of the fraternity.