

New Capuchin Provincial gives closing speech to Chapter

28 October 2002



Br Julian Messina and Br John Cooper – Handing over the Seal of the Province.

A Word from the New Provincial

Br. Julian Messina OFM Cap

Brothers, every Chapter is unique. In this Chapter, above all, I was impressed by the goodwill that was evident among all. Br. Joseph Nacua, our General Definitor, said in his Opening Remarks that every chapter is an opportunity to re-structure and even re-invent ourselves, this is important.

Our discussions, our discernment of a new leadership team are signs of decisiveness, of how we want our Province to be. This is a sign that every member is keen to make it work.

I am encouraged by the response of those I sounded out about transfers. This too is a sign of our desire to see our Province flourish. The successes and failures of this triennium will belong to all of us.

The priorities of this triennium are no different to the priorities of the past, but let us aim to build on what has been achieved. Let us focus on the quality of our fraternal life – our fraternal ministry in our houses and from our houses.

Let us place more emphasis on our Capuchin Life being reflected in our ministry: to attract and keep vocations; to permeate our formation – initial and ongoing; and in the care of our elderly friars.

Let us be convinced of the value of our Capuchin Way of Life, and let us not write our brothers off, who are no longer productive.

Let us build on what we have achieved so far.

Let us go back to our first fervour!

My sincere thanks to Brother John and his team for the work they have done these last six years.

Thank you especially Brother Joseph Nacua. You have renewed in us our awareness, that we are a part of the International Fraternity and that we are not to limit ourselves to our "Island".



Torreggiani Centenary Celebrations 2004

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A Time to Remember the Past



From 1833 Capuchin Friars came to Australia and left their footprints in the history of this great land. This was especially so in 1870 when Bishop Torriganni and a number of Capuchins arrived to begin ministry in the Diocese of Armidale NSW. They took up responsibility for an area in Australia the size of France and went to work in the time of horses and coaches with enthusiasm.

2004 will be the 100th Anni-versary of the death of Bishop Torriganni, who was called "The Angel of Armidale" by his enthusiastic supporters. To mark this historic event the Capuchins of Australia are preparing a special Conference/Assembly in Armidale in 2004.

Towards this end Br Patrick was commissioned to write a book on the life of Bishop Torriganni and to prepare the groundwork for this special event.

After consultation with the Bishop Wednesday 18 February 2002, the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday was set down for the main liturgical celebration in the

Cathedral. It is proposed that the friars would spend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week in Armidale with a display, the launch of the Biography of Bishop Torreggiani and visits to sites of Capuchin interest.