



Sandal Prints



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Newsletter of the Capuchin Mission Office
PO Box 153 Leichhardt NSW 2040

March 2018

The Capuchin Mission of Laleia in Timor



Bernie Sullivan a Lay Capuchin Missionary shares her experiences

Dear Benefactors and Friends,

We wish to thank you all for your prayers and generous donations we received during the year 2017. Our benefactors made it possible to give financial assistance to support the formation of new friars in Timor and will allow our **Fr. Luan Le OFM Cap** to continue working together with the Portuguese friars in Timor.

In this issue we share the experiences of **Berni Sullivan**, a Lay Capuchin Missionary from Melbourne. She's a nurse and was in Timor for almost four years.

Our **Easter and Mother's Day cards** are available by mail, email and **online**. Please forward your particular intentions for the Novena of Masses and join us in the prayers.

This **2018** we recall the **50th Anniversary of St. Padre Pio's birth to heaven** and the **100th Anniversary of the Stigmata**.

Our special thanks to the **Capuchin Franciscan Friars in Australia**, to the secretaries and parishioners, to all benefactors and friends. We wish you all a **Blessed Easter and a Happy Mother's Day**.

Daniela Santillan, Secretary.



THE CAPUCHIN MISSION OF LALEIA IN TIMOR

By Berni Sullivan

Catechesis

From the moment the Capuchin Friars arrived in the Parish of Laleia in 2003, they made establishing catechesis a priority. As a result the 2016/2017 year saw almost 500 children, ranging in age from 7 to 17, taught by almost 40 local catechists in the villages of Laleia, Samalai and Cairui. This vital faith formation is coordinated by the Friars and Lay Missionaries.

The systematic approach has been adopted from the model used in Portugal and sees



children starting with the basics of the faith in the first and second year, before making their First Holy Communion in the third year. The children attend weekly classes followed by Catechesis Mass, which is animated, by a different class each week.



Centre of St. Clare of Assisi in Samalai

Samalai is the smallest village under the care of the Capuchin Friars in the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, **Laleia, Timor Leste**. It suffered under the Indonesian occupation of 1975 to 1999, and having just celebrated **15 years since independence**, Timor Leste is making good progress in improving basic infrastructure and the living conditions of its citizens. However many smaller, rural villages, like Samalai, are yet to see many of these improvements.



A few examples to highlight this slow progress include the fact that the only public buildings in the town are a primary school and the Church. In a country where 97% of the population is Catholic, the Church becomes the main meeting place and is central to the lives of the villagers. Through funding from **Catholic missions**, and generous volunteers who funded their own trip and donated their time, in just four weeks we were able to construct the **Centre of St Clare of Assisi**.

It provides a place for:

- **Catechesis and sacramental preparation** make up a large part of the pastoral program in Samalai. The entire population has been baptised but very poorly catechized.
- **Social outreach:** In place of government social support, the Parish is often approached to facilitate things such as, microloans, material assistance in the form of clothing, and advocacy particularly for women who are at risk of abuse.
- **Mothers group:** weekly classes for preschool aged children and their mothers aiming at early education for the children but also teaching mothers how to interact with their children, and promote health and good nutrition.

By Berni Sullivan

- **Weekly access to primary health care and assistance** to access follow-up care in the local centre or Dili. This service is incredibly necessary because lack of access and a fear of approaching medical providers and hospitals is the greatest barrier to people addressing illness and disease. From July to September three Portuguese doctors have been based in the Laleia and have made Samalai a priority. So for the first time in their lives the people of Samalai have received the kind of medical attention.
- **Monthly health checks and weigh-ins** for all children aged 5 and under, in conjunction with the local government run health centre, with the aim of addressing childhood malnutrition and stunting which currently sits at 49% in Timor Leste.
- **Weekly literacy classes** aiming to teach the basics of numeracy and literacy to give people the dignity of being able to at least sign their own name. Extracurricular classes focusing on numeracy and literacy for around 60 school aged children.
- **Provision of essential identification documents.** Civil birth records were destroyed during the occupation, so the baptismal records are the only valid form of I.D. which means that the Parish's role in maintaining and verifying records, and providing Baptism Certificates is very important.



THE CAPUCHIN MISSION OF LALEIA IN TIMOR

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The Lord always provides: 3 doctors join us in the Mission

July saw the arrival of three new lay missionaries in Laleia: **Ana Patricia, Andreia, and Margarida** have given up three months of their lives to lend their skills as **doctors** in both the Parish Health Centre and the Community Health Centre of Laleia.



Their particular focus has been in the smallest and poorest village of Samalai where the newly completed Parish Centre provides the perfect environment to attend to the people of the village. Samalai is a one-hour walk from the closest health centre. That, combined with a mistrust of modern medicine, means that illness and disease are poorly treated and the mortality rate is far higher than it should be.

Please keep them in your prayers as they witness to the human dignity of the poorest, who are so often at the mercy of an unjust distribution of healthcare in Timor Leste.

A FINAL THANK YOU, by Bernie Sullivan

(extracted from her last letter)

After almost four years, on the 6th of August 2017 my time as a **Lay Capuchin Missionary** came to it's close. As I drove out of the gates in front of the bright pink church, that has been my daily comfort and source of strength, I left knowing that everyone was in the best of hands.

In my final weeks I had to reassure not only the people of the villages, but also myself, that God has provided already, and will continue to provide, missionaries to walk alongside those in the Parish: The widows and elderly, the hundreds of children, the choir, and the faithful who's love for the Church overflowed in their service.



The difference that **Capuchin friars** presence in **Laleia** has made in the Parish is felt and admired most by those who are closest to them. As missionaries come and go they take comfort in the friars constant presence among them.

Without the support of those who recognise that our dear Timorese neighbours are in great need of the pastoral care of the Capuchin friars and the support and assistance provided by the Lay missionaries, the works in Timor Leste would be impossible.

On behalf of all the people of Laleia whose lives continue to be impacted by the generosity of benefactors they will never know, let me say thank-you!



This year our Centre will be dedicated to a special anniversary in the life of St. Padre Pio: 100 years since he received the stigmata and 50 years of his birth in heaven.

During 2018 we will share the highlights of his life, and one of the mystical phenomena that marked the life and person of this extraordinary friar and saint.

About Padre Pio

Padre Pio, was a humble Capuchin priest who lived in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, at Our Lady of Grace Friary. He was blessed by God in many wonderful and mysterious ways; The most dramatic was the stigmata and he bore these wounds of Christ for fifty years. Among his other gifts were perfume, bilocation, prophecy, conversion, reading of souls, and miraculous cures. People are still being cured through his intercession in ways that cannot be explained by medicine or science.

He offers himself as a victim to our Lord

On 10 August 1910, brother Pio of Pietrelcina was ordained a priest in the cathedral of Benevento (Italy). Four days later in the parish church of his home town, Padre Pio celebrated his first solemn Mass. To those present he gave a commemorative card with words of his life's plan: *"Jesus-may I be with you for the world—the Way, Truth and Life—and for You a holy priest—a perfect victim."*

The first signs of his stigmata

The wounds of Our Lord's passion became visible for the first time on Padre Pio's body, after his ordination to the priesthood, while praying beneath an oak tree in Pietrelcina. The stigmata caused the young friar a great "anguish and embarrassment" and he prayed to the Lord that He might remove the outward signs. His prayers were answered and "the wounds vanished, but not the acute pain".

Our Catalogue of books and religious articles is available on request. Please contact our centre or visit our website: www.capuchinfriars.org.au

How to Start a Padre Pio Prayer Group

If you are interested in forming a Padre Pio Prayer Group in your Parish, please contact our office for more information. We will help you in registering your group in “**La Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza**” the official prayer group in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, which gives guidance and assistance to all prayers groups around the world.



**GRUPPI
DI PREGHIERA
DI PADRE PIO**

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Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

Please contact our Centre, we will be pleased to send you the conditions necessary to become Spiritual Children of Padre Pio. All registered names are sent to the Capuchin Friars in Our Lady of Grace Friary, in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.

The Capuchin Friars in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

The “**Edizione Padre Pio da Pietrelcina**” is the Publishing House of the Capuchin Friars of San Giovanni Rotondo, founded to guarantee the real knowledge of the life and spirituality of St. Padre Pio, through rigorous selection of authors and a scientific verification of contents.



The company operates in synergy with the periodical “**Voce di Padre Pio**” and with broadcasters **Tele Radio Padre Pio** and **Padre Pio Tv**, to spread the values of the Gospel, through the human experience of a witness to the faith of our time, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.



Pope Francis in San Giovanni Rotondo

On **17th March 2018** Pope Francis will visit Pietrelcina and San Giovanni Rotondo. He will celebrate Mass and visit the pediatric oncology ward.



For more details, visit: www.teleradiopadrepio.it OR
www.vocedipadrepio.com

Dear St. Padre Pio devotees:

You can visit us and venerate the two first class relics of the Saint in our office:

96 Catherine Street (Capuchin Friary, downstairs), Leichhardt NSW

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:00—Ph: (02) 9569-1880

ST. PADRE PIO CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

MAKE A DONATION

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As we mentioned, **Fr. Luan Le OFM Cap** will continue working in the preparation of young Capuchin students for religious life and Priesthood. The Mission Office assists the students and Fr. Luan in his work by donating **20,000 dollars** every year. In supporting them you become part of their missionary work.

You can assist the Capuchin friars in other ministries; you can contribute towards:

- the promotion of the devotion of St. Padre Pio in Australia
- the Ministry to the Poor and Marginalised
- the Education of our Student Friars

Please contact us for Tax deductible receipts or visit **www.capuchinfriars.org.au**

REMEMBER THE CAPUCHIN FRIARS IN YOUR WILL

You can include the Capuchin Friars in your last Will and Testament. If you wish to leave money or some gift to support the Missions or other ministries, we can send you information.

BECOMING A CAPUCHIN FRIAR?

Our Friars are inviting single Catholic men (18-35) to participate for a weekend of discernment a possible religious vocation. Contact Fr. Thomas McFadden, the Vocation Director at: **vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au**

VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME ?

If you want to volunteer your time to the Missions or other ministries, contact us:

CAPUCHIN MISSION OFFICE & PADRE PIO CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

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Capuchin Mission Australia
St Padre Pio Centre of Australia