



In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)

St Michael the Archangel,
A Warrior for Today

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

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Dear Friends,

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lessing of the pilgrim statues of St Michael from Gargano

2012 was a special year for the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel: it marked 100 years since the death of the Founder,

Blessed Fr Bronislaw Markiewicz, as well as the beginning of the Great Nine Year Novena. The culmination of the Novena will be the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Church's approval of the institutions established by Blessed Markiewicz for the education of neglected youth as the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel.

Each year of the Great Novena focuses on a special theme and a pastoral project that aim to enhance the spiritual awareness of the members of the Congregation, contribute to the development of Michaelite charism and nurture the heritage inherited from the Blessed Founder. The first year of the Great Novena features a pilgrimage of the replica of the statue of St Michael from the shrine of Gargano, Italy to the Michaelite communities and parishes in Poland.

Sending statues on pilgrimage is a well-established tradition in the life of the Catholic Church as a means of increasing devotion and spiritual awareness among the faithful.

The pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima became a familiar sight for Catholics all over the world in the last century. Sent out to bring the Message of Fatima to the world, the International Pilgrim Virgin statue has travelled the world many times, visiting more than 100 countries (including Russia and China), bringing the great message of hope – “the peace plan from heaven” – to millions of people. Reports of miracles and signal graces (including the shedding of tears many times) are reported wherever the statue travels. In 1951, Pope Pius XII remarked: *In 1946, we crowned Our Lady of Fatima as Queen of the World and the next year, through Her Pilgrim Statue, She set forth as though to claim Her dominion, and the favours She performs along the way are such that we can hardly believe what we are seeing with our eyes.*

The pilgrimage of the statue of St Michael began humbly as an internal Michaelite initiative but it quickly developed into an event on a national scale as invitations from parishes all over Poland poured in. It is obvious that the faithful have a hunger for experiences that bring St Michael and his heavenly army of Angels more tangibly into their lives at a time when the Church is struggling and attacks from the evil one are everywhere. Just before his departure to Rome, His Eminence Cardinal George Pell blessed the statue of St Michael during celebrations at Hurstville parish. The statue will visit our Michaelite communities in Sydney and then hopefully continue its pilgrimage to many other parishes in Australia. Similarly, in Kuli Parish in Mount Hagen diocese in Papua New Guinea, the statue was blessed by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Michael Banach in the presence of Archbishop Doug Young and Bishop Arnold Orawae and will continue its pilgrimage in Papua New Guinea.



Canonical Visitation by Superior General &

Holy Spirit North Ryde

Holy Spirit Parish at North Ryde hosted the Superior General Fr **Kazimierz Radzik** and the General Bursar Fr **Jerzy Sosinski** who conducted the Canonical Visitation of the Australia-PNG Vice Province. Their visit coincided with the meeting of the Council of Michaelite Provincials from around the world. Present were: Fr **Wladyslaw Suchy**—Italy, Fr **Kazimierz Lorencowicz**—Argentina, Fr **Stanislaw Friede**—Germany, Fr **Andrzej Kowalczyk**—USA, Fr **Jan Kaszuba**—Dominican Republic, Fr **Janusz Bieniek** and Fr **Stan Kluk** representing Australia-PNG.



On the first day members gathered for a recollection day that was led by Fr Stanislaw Friede. The theme of the conference was: “Sensitivity to the poor and abandoned”. Prayers, reflection and Mass were held in the chapel of the newly renovated Michaelite House at North Ryde where the majority of members were residing, being hosted by Fr Stanislaw Kluk. Other Michaelite Fathers working in different parishes also joined in for the day. At the end of the day everyone gathered at the table to share a delicious Polish meal. From the next morning, the meeting of the Council of Provincials was held at Australian Catholic University at North Sydney for the following three days.

Ewa Kluk

St Anthony's Clovelly

The Superior General's first visit was to the parish of St Anthony's at Clovelly which he knew from previous years. Parishioners, teachers and students from St Anthony's school, attended the welcoming Mass concelebrated with Parish Priest, Fr **Pawel Kopczynski**. This was followed by a lovely morning tea prepared in the school grounds and hosted by the school mothers and Year 6 students.

Afterwards the Superior General and Fr Jerzy conducted the visitation of the parish recording the progress of pastoral and spiritual activities of parish life. Later that evening an exquisite dinner was held in the presbytery for all the Michaelite Superiors and Fathers.

Caterina Raccosta



Council of Provincials of CSMA

Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park

The Superior General visited Our Lady of Victories Parish at Horsley Park on Saturday 8th February. He was accompanied by other Michaelite Superiors and after touring the spacious grounds and beautiful church they concelebrated the 6pm Vigil Mass. We warmly welcomed our visitors and although the language difference was an obstacle, it did not obstruct the warmth and faith commitment that emanated from the parishioners. Fr Kazimierz thanked the community for the warm welcome accorded to them. He also expressed his gratitude for the love and support extended to Fr **Dominik Karnaś**, and

indeed the entire Michaelite community, in the two years the Parish has been under their pastoral care. In turn he commended Fr Dominik for his commitment to the pastoral needs of this vibrant faith community. It is our hope that Fr Kazimierz and all of the superiors departed from the Parish with an overwhelming sense of fulfillment in their own commitment to the priesthood by the passion of our *Celebrating Community*.

Mary Farrell, Pastoral Associate



Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal

On the 25 February the Terrigal Knights of St Michael were privileged to welcome Superior General from Poland, the local superior Fr Stan and visiting superiors Fr Jerzy and Fr Jan along with our Parish Priest Fr **Mark Okarma** for Mass, Exposition and a welcome supper.

We had over 40 present on this evening, and many of our members were overwhelmed with Fr Kazimierz's words (interpreted by Fr Stan) to us. He made the comment that we are the seeds that have been sown in our part of the world to encourage further devotion to St Michael the Archangel. We were humbled by Fr Kazimierz's relaxed, happy and appreciative words.

We were presented with the St Michael Scapular and we were told that we will be in the prayers of the Michaelite Fathers around the world. The presence of the Michaelite Fathers on this night was very encouraging to us all at Terrigal. We enjoyed a celebration in the hall with coffee and cake. This was indeed a special evening for all who attended. I was given a few extra scapulars for our members who were unable to attend that evening.

Janette Merrotsy, Terrigal Coordinator



Knights of St Michael, Terrigal

Installation at St Michael's Hurstville -



St Michael from Michaelite parishes past and present – Hurstville, North Ryde, Terrigal, Clovelly, Horsley Park and Chatswood.

Following the church ceremony, a beautiful dinner was served in the parish hall by parishioners and senior students from *Bethany College Hurstville*. Our celebration ended with the Michaelite Fathers singing a St Michael blessing song in Polish.



Cardinal George Pell blessing the Pilgrim statue of St Michael

Installation of Fr Janusz Bieniek as Parish Priest at Hurstville

The Canonical visitation of our Superior General, Fr Kazimierz Radzik, and our provincial superiors from around the world in February presented a perfect opportunity to celebrate together – as a Congregation and a Province.

The timing couldn't have been better to formally commemorate the parish of St Michael's Hurstville coming under the pastoral care of the Michaelite Fathers. Since it was **Cardinal George Pell** who entrusted the parish to the Michaelites, it was only fitting that he be invited to officially welcome the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel to Hurstville parish and install its new Parish Priest, Fr Janusz Bieniek.

This was Cardinal Pell's last official ceremony before departing for Rome and being appointed the **Prefect for the Secretariat of the Economy**. We were honoured that he could play a central role in the celebration.

It was also the ideal occasion to bless the pilgrim statue of St Michael which had been brought from Italy last year and to recognise the devotion and ongoing contribution of the Knights of



St Michael's Hurstville

Last Official Ceremony of Cardinal Pell

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Nuncio's visit to Kuli Parish, Papua New Guinea

A Reason to Celebrate.

The Archdiocese of Mt Hagen in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea was the scene of great celebration recently when the Apostolic Nuncio Most Rev. **Archbishop Michael Banach** visited Kuli. The parish is under the pastoral care of the Michaelite Fathers with Fr **Bogdan Swierczewski** as Parish Priest and the Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

Hundreds of parishioners eagerly awaited the arrival of the Nuncio, who was joined by the Superior General of the Michaelite Fathers and our provincial superiors from around the world who were making a Canonical visitation of the region. Many parishioners – from Kuli Parish and beyond – worked hard to prepare for the special celebration. In the weeks before the Nuncio's visit, the only road that links the parish to the main highway was evened out and beautiful floral arrangements were placed on both sides of the road. The celebration began early, on Sunday morning, 16 February, with Kuli parishioners arriving in traditional dress. Traditional dancing groups welcomed visitors from surrounding parishes who were excited to share in the joy and celebration of the Nuncio's visit. By the time the Mass

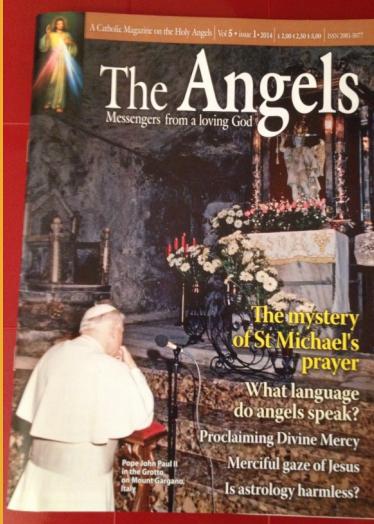


**Apostolic Nuncio Most Rev.
Archbishop Michael Banach**

started, the area was packed with people from all parts of the Western Highlands and Jiwaka provinces. Also present at the Mass was Archbishop of Mt Hagen, **Douglas Young** and Bishop of Wabag Diocese, **Arnold Orowae** as well as government representatives and members of other religious congregations.

There were several memorable moments in the Mass: the beautiful homily delivered by the Nuncio explained the roles of Nuncio and Bishop, that have their

The Angels *Messengers from a loving God*



The Catholic Magazine on the Holy Angels is available at your nearest Michaelite parish. Latest issue is out now!

welcomed visitors from surrounding parishes who were excited to share in the joy and celebration of the Nuncio's visit. By the time the Mass



People bringing gifts, Offertory Procession

beginnings in the work of the Apostles; and the concluding remarks of Archbishop Young. The Archbishop thanked the Nuncio and the Michaelites for their presence in the Diocese and extended an invitation to the Nuncio to visit Mt Hagen at any time. The Nuncio reciprocated by remarking that he already considers Mt Hagen his "second home". Superior

General said he was committed to doing everything possible to maintain the presence of the Michaelite missionaries in the region.

Br Thomas Losen



Communion ministers, Kuli Parish, PNG

Meeting of Michaelite Provincials at ACU

From 10th to 13th February the Australian Vice Province hosted the 5th plenary meeting of Michaelite provincials from around the world. The meeting was conducted at Australian Catholic University, an arrangement that was made possible by Fr **Anthony Casamento** Director of Identity and Mission at ACU, who was able to secure meeting room facilities at the North Sydney campus.

The provincials discussed a range of topics related to spirituality, charism, pastoral initiatives, community life, vocations and formation. By the end of the meeting the group had decided on a set of recommendations to be developed and presented at the General Chapter meeting in 2016.

The University generously provided all meeting facilities and lunch for the group each day. A meeting with the Vice Chancellor Greg Craven on the final day gave the provincials

the opportunity to thank the University for its hospitality and to present an original icon of St Michael to be displayed at the University.



A gift of St Michael from CSMA to Vice Chancellor of ACU, Greg Craven

“All Roads lead to Rome”

It is with much delight that I am able to share with you my two-and-a-half months experience spent in Italy over the Christmas season.

I arrived in Italy late November last year, just after having finished up my seminary and academic year. This was my second visit to Italy. My stay there was by no means a “holiday”, but rather a chance to study the Italian language and immerse myself in Italian culture. I stayed at a parish in the far northwest of Rome called Sant’Ottavia. There, I was received very cordially by the Parish Priest: Fr **Rafael Gadek**, as well as by the assistant priest, Fr **Jerzy Mogilski**. I also had the privilege of getting to know one of the Michaelite priests working at the Vatican: Fr **Boguslaw Turek** (Sub-Secretary of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints) who also lived at the parish. During my time there, I spent two months

studying at the Societa Nazionale Dante Alighieri, a prestigious language school and cultural centre in the heart of Rome. When I was not at school, I participated in the day to day life of the Michaelite priests in the Parish.

After Christmas, I observed the

Turin (Northern Italy), as well as Ars, Avignon and Cluny (France). The highlight of that trip was the quick stop we made at Sacra di San Michele, a shrine dedicated to St Michael the Archangel on a mountain top near Turin. After New Year’s, I spent two days

visiting the Sanctuary of St Michael in Monte Sant’Angelo including a half day spent touring the ruins of Pompeii. When my Italian language course finished in January, I spent my last remaining week in Italy touring Rome visiting the Vatican

Museum and some other magnificent places that I had not seen before. God bless you all!

Seminarian Br Paul Gorzkowski



Paul at Sacra Di San Michele

Annual Provincial Conference of Italy-Switzerland held at Castel Sant’Elia (North of Rome) and later travelled with Fr Jerzy on a three day trip to Pisa, Crescentino and

Knights of St Michael The Archangel



This is a lay Catholic Religious Movement whose members under the banner of St Michael are set on a mission to proclaim the victory of Christ over Satan, to obtain the conversion of sinners and to expiate for the sins of humankind.

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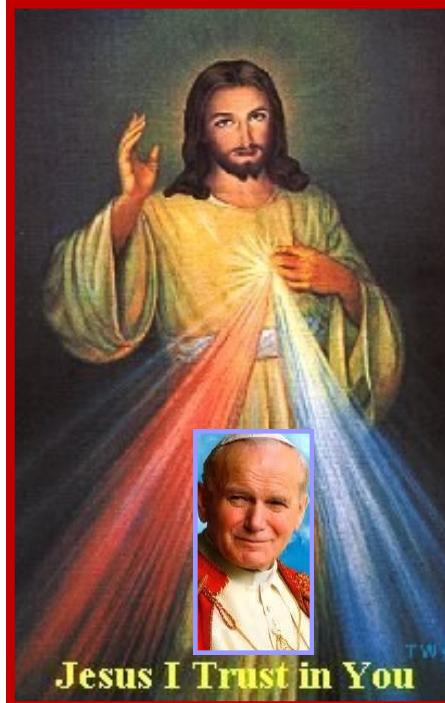


Homily from Nuncio on Divine Mercy

*During the Canonical Visit-
ation in PNG, the Superior
General and the provincial
superiors accompanied
the Apostolic Nuncio Most
Rev. Archbishop Michael
Banach, to the Shrine of
the Divine Mercy built by
the local Catholic commu-
nity at Kartanim,*

*Mt Hagen. Over the years,
the St Michael Mission
Society has generously
contributed to the
construction of this
church. Below is the
Nuncio's address to the
people that gathered in
multitudes for the
occasion.*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, It is a joy for me to visit Divine Mercy Shrine here at Rugus, PNG. In many ways, Divine Mercy is the heart of the message of Christ and the heart of the message of the Church. You are privileged to be so close to this message and mission of Christ and His Church! I, too, am devoted to Divine Mercy. In fact, I had the privilege of visiting the Basilica of Divine Mercy in Kraków-Lagiewniki, in Poland, which is next to the convent where St Faustina Kowalska is buried. It was a very moving experience. Why do we need Divine Mercy? Quite simply, because we need God's love. God's love always reveals itself to us as Divine Mercy. We are sinners, we are weak, we are lost, we suffer. The Divine Mercy comes to us and forgives us, makes us strong, shows us the way and heals our wounds. We need Divine Mercy because we need God! Listen to what Sr Faustina wrote: "I want to be completely transformed into your mercy...May mercy pass through my heart and soul to my neighbour" (Diary of St Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul, no. 163). Blessed, soon to be Saint, Pope John Paul II, was deeply devoted to Divine Mercy. Pope John Paul II visited Papua New Guinea three times: once as Cardinal and twice as Pope. He even visited Mt Hagen. He died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday. He will be made a Saint on April 27, 2014 – Divine Mercy Sunday. I hope



you will have a special celebration here on that day.

When Pope John Paul II consecrated the Divine Mercy Basilica in Poland, he said: "How greatly today's world needs God's mercy! In every continent, from the depth of human suffering, a cry for mercy seems to rise up!...May this message radiate from this place to our beloved homeland and throughout the world... This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world" (Homily, Basilica

of Divine Mercy, Kraków, Lagiewniki, August 17, 2002).

And that is my prayer and wish for you. How greatly Papua New Guinea needs God's mercy! How greatly Solomon Islands need God's mercy! How greatly Oceania needs God's mercy! So, let the fire of God's mercy go forth from this place and change our city, our country, our part of the world. Please be faithful to the Divine Mercy Devotion. Pray it with all your heart and soul. However, if this Shrine is to be the centre of Divine Mercy in PNG, it must be completed and completed well. It must be constructed strong – a worthy temple for Divine Mercy. I encourage you to work for its worthy completion. Wouldn't it be nice to have it finished by the end of this year – the year in which Pope John Paul II, the Pope of Divine Mercy, is made a saint? That would be a great gift to him and to the Church.

Mary is the mother of Mercy; she is also our Mother. She helps lead us to be merciful like our heavenly Father and She helps to fill our hearts with Jesus' mercy. She is with us on our pilgrimage through life. We pray, through Her intercession, that all of us may be transformed into divine mercy and that divine mercy may pass through our souls to our neighbours.

Thank you. God bless you!
Jesus, I trust in you!