

Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 2017



I have always loved the title of Sr. Rosemary's book on the history of the Congregation:

'A Heart for Others'

It certainly sums up the life of Fr. Braun who, despite the many challenges he faced on his journey to priesthood, never stopped relying on the grace of God to bring about the fulfilment of his vocation.

And that journey more than made his heart ready to bring our congregation into being and take it through the turmoil of war and all the changes that followed.

And the heart of Fr. Braun, like our own hearts, was and are but pale reflections of the Heart of Christ which only knows how to be for the 'other'.

As Fr. Braun said:

"Many congregations who minister to the poor are dedicated to the Sacred Heart. But you are to belong entirely to the Sacred Heart".

I think it is only when we have a sense of belonging that we can reach out to the 'other' wherever they may be or whoever they are.

Where do I, where do we 'belong'? And what do I and what do we 'long' to 'be'?

Let us look into our own hearts to find these answers. But we can all surely say, as Fr. Braun did, that we belong in the Heart of Christ. There we meet as equals, equally loved and cherished, each one unique and gifted.

Our broken and fractured world is crying out for hearts that would be for the 'other', that would walk with them on the journey to the Heart of our World, the Sacred Heart.

The paths of the journey of our congregation are strewn with the hearts that were touched, cherished and loved by our sisters, co-workers and companions.

And all was done (and is still being done) in faithfulness to Christ whose great 'longing' is that we 'be' one.

And so we pray, on this our great Feast Day, in some words taken from a litany of the Sacred Heart:

O Sacred Heart, so loving, so gentle, so spacious, God's joy, God's shalom, womb of justice, warmth of our hearts, transforming fire, heart of evolution, beginning and ending, centre of all.

Have mercy, gracious heart,

Give us gratefulness

Teach us tenderness

Let us learn to love.

Immaculate Heart

of Mary

pray for us

