

Superioris Apostolici Rescripti vigore canonice erigimus domum religiosam in civitate v.d. "Mangere", servata conditione in eodem Rescripto expressa.

Romae, die 31 maii 1968.

Fr. Constantinus Koger O.F.M.
Minister Generalis O.F.M.



Prot. N. 1862, 6B



SACRA CONGREGATIO PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE
SEU DE PROPAGANDA FIDE

BEATISSIME PATER,

Ordinarius dioecesis AUCOPOLITANAE, ad pedes Sanctitatis Vestrae provolutus, humiliter petit ut nova parocia, in civitate cui nomen MANGERE, eiusdem dioecesis, ad normam can. 1425/2 C.I.C., pleno iure uniatur domui religiosae Ordinis Fratrum Minorum, cuius sacerdotes illic sacrum exercebunt ministerium.

Et Deus...

Sacra Congregatio pro Gentium Evangelizatione seu de Propaganda Fide, vigore facultatum sibi a SS.mo D.N. PAULO Div. Prov. Papa VI tributarum, attentis expositis, benigne Ordinario Oratori facultatem tribuit iuxta preces, his tamen conditionibus ut:

- 1.- in praedicta parocia, congruus numerus religiosorum curae addicatur animarum;
- 2.- iura et bona ecclesiae parocialis distincta maneat a iuribus et bonis domus religiosorum;
- 3.- Ordini competunt illi redditus qui, secundum ius et consuetudinem in dioecesi Aucopolitana vigentia, paroco competunt; alii autem redditus, qui secundum ius et consuetudinem ad parociam spectant, ipsi parociae fideliter tribuantur;
- 4.- proprietates ecclesiae parocialis, scholarum parocialium aliorumque aedificiorum, quae in usum parocianorum adstruuntur, penes ipsam parociam remaneat;
- 5.- parocia regatur et administretur sicut ceterae parociae dioecesis;
- 6.- parocia, religiosis concredita, intelligatur ad nutum Sanctae Sedis.

Datum Romae, ex Aedibus eiusdem Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, die 29 mensis martii a.D. 1968.

Fr. Constantinus Koger
Minister Generalis

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY OF ST. ANTHONY'S

The Parish was formed from part of Onehunga (mostly) and Otahuhu parishes. The Maori people of Ihumatao were cared for by the Mill Hill fathers with a regular (monthly) Mass in a private home in the area, Fr. Van Enckevort being the last Mill Hill Father to work in the area.

As the population grew in the 1960's, there was seen to be a need of a Mass Centre and CCD classrooms. At least 50% of the Onehunga Parish School in the '60s came from the area - a school bus was arranged to bring the children to Onehunga. Fr. Green, Administrator for Onehunga in the 1960s started planning and arranged the building of the Mass Centre in Kirkbride Road. The writer remembers the many stalwart Catholic families in the area - Morrow, Bonner, Tui, Oldehaver, Bains, to name a few - who gave great support to Church, school and CCD classes.

For many years the Franciscans had been active at the Friary in Hillsborough Road; they had always hoped for a parish in the Diocese and in 1966 Archbishop Liston gave a hint that the day might not be far off. The building of the Parish Centre in 1967 at Kirkbride Road had been possible through a bequest of 6 acres of land from Mr. John Geddes, a retired farmer in 1958. Fund-raising was in full swing in late 1967 and a loan was made from Diocesan funds of some \$44,000. In October of 1967 Archbishop Liston offered a parish to the Franciscans in the Mangere Bridge area, which offer was accepted as from January 1968. The official documents from the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for Religious approving the offer and the documents from the Congregations for the Propagation of the Faith were issued in May 14th and March 29th 1968, respectively.

The first Parish Priest was Fr. Claver Munday OFM who set the Parish on its feet - among other things, 49 Baptisms the first year! - and was P.P. till 1971, when he joined the Diocese of Auckland.

(Thanks to Fr. Bruce Boland, Diocesan Archivist, for his research)