

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS

At Johnsonville Uniting Church

What is the Family Group

Movement and should I belong?

History of the Passionist Family Group Movement

In 1972, Father Peter McGrath, C.P. was appointed to the tiny parish of St Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills, an outer suburb of Sydney. Then only 30 people gathered for Sunday Eucharist. The congregation grew to over 1000 by 1973.

Faced with expansion, Father Peter formed Passionist Family Groups to preserve the original community spirit where people knew each other by name and shared each other's joys and sorrows. The groups are based on the teachings of the Apostle Paul.

The Passionist Family Group Movement, though started in the Catholic Church, has bridged the gap and is ecumenical, now in Anglican, Uniting and Baptist churches. Family Groups are now in 400 parishes in Australia, New Zealand (1988), U.S.A., U.K. and Ireland.

Johnsonville Uniting Church joined the Passionist Movement 25 years ago. We were seeded by our Catholic friends at Sts Peter and Paul Church our neighbouring Parish. Once a year we meet together for a joint activity.

We have three groups who meet once a month throughout the year for fellowship and friendship. Different members arrange a variety of activities. Each group has a convener/s and the overall Parish conveners are Judith and Boyd Dunlop. If you would like to join a group speak to Judith or Boyd on 4785 252 – dunlop-bjf@xtra.co.nz and they will be very pleased to place you in a group.

Some of the activities groups do:

shared meals, picnics, BBQ's, ten-pin bowling, films, wine and dine nights, walks, poetry evenings, car rallies, visits to museums/historical sights the list goes on.

What are the Aims?

- ✚ To share our Christian lives together.
- ✚ To support each other in times of need and of celebration.
- ✚ To give example to and involve our Children in our Christian sharing.
- ✚ To live and care for others like the early Christians

For further information visit:
www.passionistfamily.org.nz



The Logo states it all –

Building community within the parish, is one of the aims of the Passionist Family Group Movement