

Australian Province

In April 1982, Father Augustine Lazur, came from Poland with a mission: to extend the influence of Our Lady of Jasna Gora to yet another country. He was led to the Southern Highlands of New South Wales and in 1984, with a great deal of faith and the help of many benefactors, purchased the property now known as "Penrose Park". It was Solemnly blessed and opened that same year, and the Australian Province of Our Lady Queen of Hermits was born. The province has since been blessed with another monastery and shrine known as "Marian Valley" along with several parishes and new local vocations.

St Paul the First Hermit

During the persecution of the Christians by Caesar Decius in 250, the young Paul fled to the Desert in Thebes by the Red Sea and learned to value his solitary life "alone with God alone" so much that he remained there for the rest of his life. He lived nearly ninety years in prayerful solitude, constant penance and contemplation of God. Before he died he was discovered by St Anthony the Abbot who spread the news about his holiness.

It is believed that St Paul was kept alive by the fruit of a palm tree and by a raven which daily brought him a piece of bread. He died at the age of 113, at which time, as related by St Anthony, two lions dug a grave for him. This story is captured in the Coat of Arms of the Order, showing the palm tree, two lions and a raven. The Pauline Order, which was founded by hermits being gathered together to form a community of monks, chose St Paul the First hermit as its Patron and Patriarch and thus received its name.

Focus of Our Life

Inspired by St Paul the First Hermit and shaped by our custodianship of the Shrine of Jasna Gora our life and mission is focused on:

- The contemplation of God in solitude
- Love of the Divine Liturgy
- Living the Evangelical Counsels
- Spreading Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Apostolic activity through the pastoral guardianship of both Shrines and Parishes

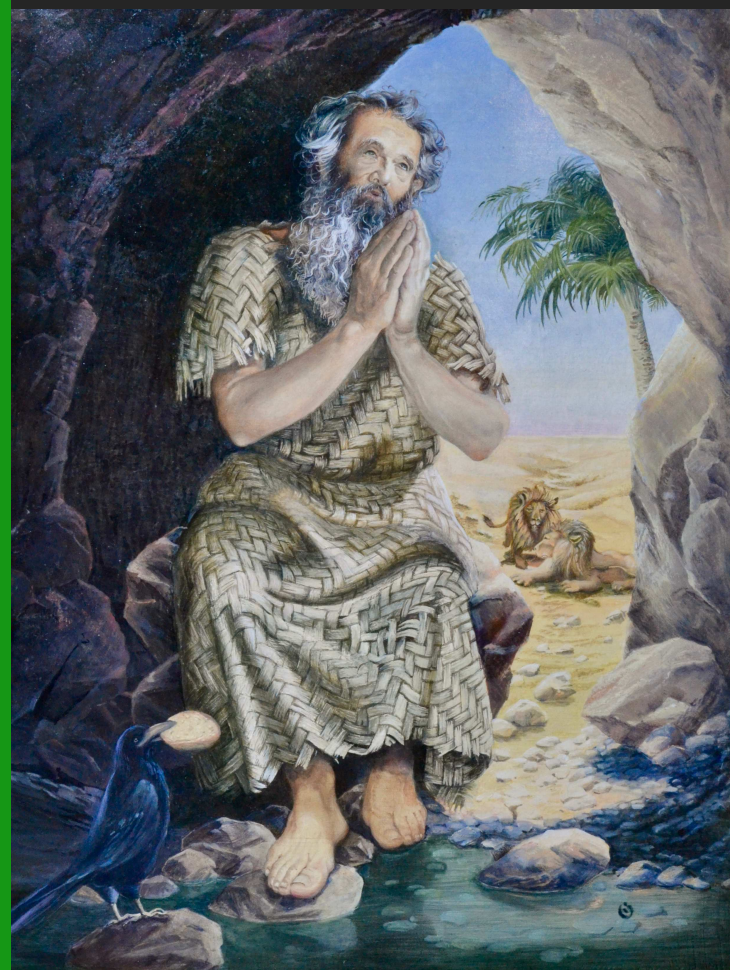


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ORDER OF ST PAUL The First Hermit



Could God be Calling You
To a Vocation
As a Brother or Priest?

A Vocation - God's Call

God calls all men to holiness but God also calls men to different vocations by which to arrive at this holiness. Each takes his own time to hear and respond to this call of God. In the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, all members are first and foremost called to be brothers which they will all spend their first years being. Some members might have an additional vocation from God to become a priest. Upon entering the Order he will be known as a postulant, where he lives with the order for a time to help him, and the Order, to further discern his call. He then begins the novitiate which is one year of intense prayer and work to help continue his discernment. During this time he will receive his habit, and at the end he will take temporary vows. After a few more years of formation, he will then be ready to take solemn vows, which are for life. He is then a full member of the Pauline family. Every Vocation is unique. Every Pauline is unique. Every formation is unique. God calls unique individuals, uniquely to our order. If he is calling you to follow him in the adventure of the Pauline vocation, then do not be afraid, come and see us.

What is a Monk?

If a Monk is to be defined by his most important task, he is a man seeking God. He is a man that seeks God by following the Evangelical Counsels that Christ gave us by taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience which are lived out in a community life. The Monk chooses this life in the conviction that by following the Evangelical Counsels that Christ gave he has the most sure way of reaching heaven and being able to draw others after him.



Blessed Eusebius and the History of Our Order

Eusebius was born in the Hungarian town of Esztergom in the early thirteenth century. Being a man of knowledge and deep piety Eusebius was made a canon at the cathedral in Esztergom. However Eusebius had a deep love of solitude, and so after obtaining the archbishop's permission he renounced his office to live as a hermit among the rocks of the Pilis Mountains and spend his life in prayer and fasting. There he would receive a vision of many little flames in the mountains coming together as one. Inspired by the vision, Eusebius started to unite the hermits spread all over the Pilis into one monastic community. These hermits, become monks, took as their patron St. Paul the First Hermit who had lived 800 years before. It was from the life of St. Paul that the Order took its motto: *solus cum Deo solo*, alone with God alone.

Another important event in the history of the Order was the founding of the Monastery of Jasna Gora in 1382, which was gifted with the miraculous icon of the Black Madonna. Though the Order already had a strong Marian devotion, this would direct that into the founding and running of Marian Shrines. In Australia this includes both "Marian Valley" — the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, and "Penrose Park" — the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy.