Our readers who have seen media reports about the earthquake that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Tuesday 22 February will have wondered about how our Community and apostolic presence in Christchurch have been affected. **We are pleased to be able to report that both the St. John of God Hospital and the residence of the Brothers are located outside the city centre and are single storey buildings. Consequently the hospital alone suffered minor damage.** However patients, staff and Brothers have been affected by the general chaotic conditions prevailing in Christchurch—with severe water and electricity shortages and the lack of other essential services, such as sewerage.

The Province of Oceania has had a community in Christchurch since 1955. That Community carried out the Saint John of God Mission in the care and education of children with learning disabilities, the support and guidance of ‘youth at risk’ and in long-term residential treatment and care of physically and neurologically disabled adults.

In 2007 the Province’s youth and disabled adults services in Christchurch were merged with other Catholic health care services in the PJP “Saint John of God Australia”. The current Community of Brothers has two members—both of whom are associated with St. John of God Hospital where they have been helping with the aftermath of the earthquake.

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