



I can do
all
things
through
Christ
who

The Witness

Newsletter of the Catholic Schools of Evangelisation

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Survive and Thrive as Evangelisers

Adrian Commadeur

The October 2004 courses aim to give refreshment to past graduates of the School as well as teaching to new participants. The courses to be held are: **Formation in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (formerly called "Evangelise with Power") and **The Secret of Paul**.

It is said that people become converted through two principles - compassion and community. At Pentecost 2004 in Rome, Pope John Paul II said, "The ecclesial movement and new communities are a providential answer inspired by the Holy Spirit given the present need for new evangelisation. Thanks to the Charismatic movement, many Christian men and women, youth and adults have rediscovered Pentecost as a living and present reality in their daily life."

He added wondrously, "I desire that the spirituality of Pentecost be spread in the church, as a renewed thrust of prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation." With these courses which directly support the work of evangelisation, we stand and act with John Paul II for a new evangelisation.

To be effective, it is clear that evangelisation needs to be accompanied by the charisms, which are

to be exercised with love. If people experience physical healing, they are more disposed to experience spiritual healing, ie. salvation.

The **Formation in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Discover gifts and secrets at the October courses.

course teaches us to be more open to the gifts and to exercise them more effectively. With a focus on healing and inner healing, practical exercises allow for growth in the use of the gifts. Other topics include the messianic and charismatic signs and Mary, Star of Evangelisation.

The program includes prayer for further release of the Holy Spirit. The result of the four day course, which is both participative and stimulating, makes a person more equipped and committed to the Kerygma, to the charisms and to the

community of the church.

The Secret of Paul course brings the participant face to face with the apostle of the gentiles. Encouraged by the conversion, life, ministry and death of Saul, ardent persecutor, turned Paul the eager Evangeliser, participants will share the secret of his ministry success.

When we desire to make our contribution to the new evangelisation in this exciting epic of church history, we can do no better than imitate Paul. He is our model, and martyr of missionary zeal. We fall in love with his humanity, we admire his boldness, we envy and imitate his intimacy with Jesus. We struggle with his failures and foolishness. In the end we leave the five day course enthused to follow Paul in evangelising those who do not know the Lord.

Each course, in its own unique way, provides an opportunity for participants to gain so much learning which can be applied in their personal lives each day.

If you have already done the courses, please encourage others to come. For details, see page 4 and for registration, see page 15.

Special Point of Interest

January 2005 Conference

See p 3

Let Your Nets Down for a Catch (Lk 4:5) - January Conference 2005

Since 1984 Pope John Paul II has been inviting the Catholic Church to a new era with a new evangelisation. He has recognised that the de-christianisation of the western world, the increase of technology, knowledge, welfarism, and materialism has led many to become self-reliant rather than relying on God. Even the media have called sport the religion of many Australians.

From the practice of faith by 75% after WWII, present indicators are that fewer than 15% of Catholics practice their faith. Some interesting side effects have become evident. Instead of confessing sins on a regular basis, about one in five Australians receive therapy. Instead of attending church, some 30% of Australians attend gym each week. Instead of volunteering for good, spiritual causes, many volunteer to improve the environment. Instead of Sunday morning worship, there is Sunday morning junior footy or athletics. These changes in our society have not escaped the attention of the Bishops in

Australia. They have a new focus on evangelisation. To mention a few, Cardinal Pell (Sydney), Archbishop Hickey (Perth), Hart (Melbourne) and Bathersby (Brisbane), all have initiated programs, offices or policies of evangelisation.

As this call to a new evangelisation is heeded, the January 2005 conference will add to the momentum. Aimed at promoting the proclamation of the gospel of salvation in the power of the Holy Spirit, the conference will be very significant in the life of the church. It will be an event to recall Pope Paul VI's publication of the famous letter on "Evangelisation in the Modern World."

This 1975 watershed document was the result of the Synod of Bishops on Evangelisation on 1974. The bishops awaited from Pope Paul VI "a fresh impulse, capable of creating within a church still more fully rooted in the underlying power and strength of Pentecost, a new period of evangelisation" (EM.2).

The 2005 conference is part of that "fresh impulse." There will be excellent presenters like inspirational speaker Bishop Joe Grech (Victoria), Michelle Moran (of the Sion Evangelising Community in the UK), and Fr John Rea (Mount Friet in New Zealand, with a powerful healing ministry testified to by people all around Australia and New Zealand). The capacity of the conference is 600, for Union House at Melbourne University. Those who are serious about evangelisation, not just about a conference on evangelisation, should not hesitate to register. The SOE endorses the conference and invites you to attend.

Date: 17 Jan - 21 Jan 2005
 Place: Union House,
 Melbourne University
 Registration: CCR Centre, 631
 Bourke St Melbourne
 Ph: 9629 2544
 Fax: 9629 1899
 Email: centre@ccr.com.au

Evangelisation with Power in Sydney - Adrian Commadeur

In June 2004, twenty eight participants came to Smithfield Parish Hall to learn



more about the place of charisms in the work of proclaiming the gospel. It was a packed four days over the long weekend, facilitated very well by Lucy and Eddie Grasso and team. Speakers included Lucy Milburn, Eddie and Lucy and Adrian Commadeur.

Though there may have been justifiably greater expectations from the course, the focus was mainly on messianic, sacramental and charismatic signs. The main charisms covered were healing and inner healing. Though we might expect that a course would give a simple formula for success, the realisation dawned that only by applying the gifts as often as

possible in our own ministry, will the charisms grow.

Some comments included:

On the contents of the course:

- ◆ The course needed more "hands on" prayer ministry for increased effectiveness in group work - balanced, varied, interesting - lectures were wonderful - my faith has grown deeper - fantastic, lots of topics were new to me - some subjects too large for one session - would like to have seen group work...

On the presentation:

- ◆ loved discussing sacraments, gifts, charisms - better to do an act than sit and watch - I was able to understand - enjoyed creatives (group work, dynamics) - not enough activities but overall very good presentation - done well with tenderness and love...

On the dynamics:

- ◆ always in harmony with the message - some were very moving - it made things click -

a lot of people had healing, participating in (summary presentation) activity - the best one was inner healing - group involvement challenging but very rewarding...

How course helped you?

- ◆ I feel I found my spiritual self - talk on priesthood and marriage - I see I have much to learn - given me a great hunger to do the works of Jesus... never felt before - greater understanding of evangelisation and the gifts - I was a sponge, taking in as much as possible - heal yourself before you reach out to others and trust God unconditionally in the spiritual gifts - helped me grow in faith

In conclusion, one participant commented, "I have realised that I need to evangelise myself before I can evangelise others... and... my own evangelisation will be in my community."

It seems that in evangelising we are always beginning... again!

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION—PROGRAM 2004—2005

Date	Course Name	Location & Contact Details
Aug 6-7, 13-14	JOHN—Formation of Disciples	Melbourne VIC—St Augustine's
Aug 7-8	EMMAUS	Wollongong NSW—Paul (02) 4297 1570
Aug 21-22	NEW LIFE	Bairnsdale—Cathy (03) 5174 3001
Sept 9-12	JOHN—Formation of Disciples	Wagga Wagga NSW—Kay (02) 6933 1444
Sept 25-26	NEW LIFE	Pymble NSW—Lucy (02) 9670 4440
Sept 27-30	<i>Formation in Gifts of the Spirit</i>	East Brunswick VIC—Adrian (03) 9337 2051
Oct 1	<i>Coordinators' Meeting</i>	East Brunswick VIC
Oct 2	<i>Teaching Day with Bishop Joe</i>	East Brunswick VIC
Oct 4-8	<i>Secret of Paul</i>	East Brunswick VIC— Adrian (03) 9337 2051
Oct 30—Nov 2	Formation in Gifts of the Spirit	Narre Warren VIC—(03) 5174 3001
Feb 26-27	NEW LIFE	Parramatta NSW—CCR Conference
May 13-15, 20-22	JOHN—Formation of Disciples	Cranbourne VIC—Cathy (03) 5174 3001

New Life Course in Bairnsdale

The Sale SOE team will conduct a **New Life** course in the Bairnsdale Parish Pastoral Centre on 21 and 22 August.

This short, weekend course will be conducted from 9am - 5.30pm each day. For those who wish to stay overnight, there will be billeting available with parishioners in Bairnsdale, which is a pleasant three hour drive from Melbourne in the East Gippsland Lakes region.

New Life is suitable for anyone to

attend, whether you have completed previous courses or not. So why not come along and bring someone else who needs to experience God's love?

The course will help you come to a knowledge of God as a loving, forgiving and merciful Father. It will deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and you will experience empowerment by the Holy Spirit, thus enabling you to go out into the world and make known

the Good News of Jesus to others.

New Life is a experiential course with participants sharing various activities so that the lessons become personal and life changing.

If you wish to attend, please contact Patrick Kelly on 5672 2772, or email: pakelly@archis.com.au or call: Cathy McLure on 5174 3001.



My Runners for God - Thomas Stephens, Aged 14½ years

My dad and I went out onto the streets of Clayton to evangelise as part of the School of Evangelisation reunion after a recent Paul Course. As it was one of my first times I was very shy and not very confident.

For the first half hour we had nobody interested in stopping and talking. Then after we prayed in the street we met several people, one after the other, who allowed us to share the Good News with them and in fact, some of these people wanted us to pray with and for them.

We were supposed to be back at the meeting place at 3:30 pm, so we headed back. I wanted to go to the local hospital, but my dad was not so sure about this, so we gave that a miss and just as we were passing by the hospital we saw a guy running. I gave my dad a nudge and said "dad, what about this guy?"

We crossed over the road quickly, and he was walking very fast

(almost running). We walked (ran) together and began to speak to him about the Kerygma (The six points 1. That God loves him, 2. Sin... and so on).

While my dad was speaking to him I realised that the man had no shoes and at the same time, the Word of God "I was naked and you clothed me" came to my mind. Straight away I knew that Jesus was asking me to give him my runners.

My dad had finished speaking with him and after praying we walked away and I told my dad what Jesus said. My dad and me both said "Praise the Lord!"

Straight away I ran after him and called him. I gave him my runners and he was over the moon! He sat on the ground in the middle of the foot-path and we helped to put the runners on his feet. The man said he was so thankful and that when he could afford it he would give some money back to

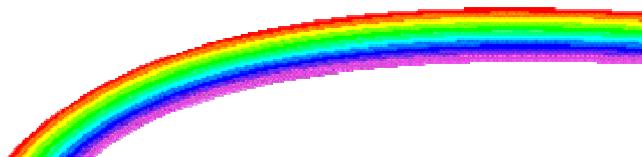
the Catholic Church. My runners fitted him and off he went saying, "Praise Jesus." I left Clayton without my runners but smiled all the way home.

Oh, before I forget, my Dad hasn't yet bought me a new pair of runners

Editor's Note: Praise Jesus, indeed! Thomas is the son of Gary Stephens, the new Melbourne Coordinator of the SOE. We are all so proud of you, Thomas. The ability in one so young to not only hear the will of God but to also respond to it, is truly inspiring.



Rainbow of Hope - Anna Breheny



We were just about to complete our second day of neighborhood visitation during the PAUL course held at Clayton this past June. Unlike the previous day, which was very positive and obviously fruitful, this day was just the opposite. Being a Saturday, many people were not home and others were not too friendly. Overall, we hadn't even had one chance to proclaim the entire Kerygma - the core message of the gospel, as taught to us during the previous six days.

My partner, Janice, and I, stopped walking.

"I can't knock on another door," I said, feeling weary and defeated.

Immediately, she prayed for me. As she was finishing the prayer, I opened my eyes and there, behind Janice, was a beautiful rainbow in the sky.

"Look," I pointed and she turned to see, "the Lord is telling us there's hope."

We both smiled at one another and walked up the last driveway to knock on the last door.

An elderly man answered. We put on our best smiles and told him we were from the local Catholic church and we wished to share with him the message of God's love.

"Now listen ladies," he said with a confused look on his face, "this is not a Catholic thing to do. This is a Jehovah's Witness thing to do. Why are you doing this?"

"As a matter of fact, it is a very Catholic thing to do," we said. "Jesus instructed us in the Bible, that we should *make disciples of all nations.*"

"I don't remember that bit."

"Well, we just happen to have our Bible right here - we'll show you." With a flick of a page, we came to the last verse of the gospel of Matthew and read it to him.

"Oh, yes, I remember now," he nodded thoughtfully.

After speaking for a while with him, he told us his name was George, he was a Catholic who knew God loved him and he said his prayers every night.

"Praise God!" was our re-

sponse to that.

"And how long has it been since you went to Mass?" we asked him.

"Seventeen years."

"Seventeen years?" we were astounded. "Why?"

"I don't like the priest."

"Well guess what! There's a new priest now, and he's the most wonderful, spirit filled man you can imagine. Here's the church timetable," we said to him gently, "Jesus is waiting for you there."

We spoke a little longer with him and finally left in higher spirits than when we knocked on his door. And next morning at Mass, guess who was there? After seventeen years, there was George, sitting in the back row with quite a contented look on his face. Janice and I were overjoyed!

Thank you, Lord, for the rainbow of hope that moved us forward, and for allowing the powerful experience of those two days to end on such a positive note.

<p>Formation in the gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Sept 27-30 \$60</p>	<p>Don't forget to register for the October Courses</p> <p>See page 15 for registration</p>	<p>The Secret of Paul</p> <p>Oct 4-8</p> <p>\$75</p>
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Our Lady Queen of Peace & Evangelisation - Pat Kelly

One of the greatest centres for evangelisation in the world in the last twenty years has been Medjugorje. Everyone has met someone who has been converted by a visit to Medjugorje or through the message of Our Lady given in that town. One of my sons was recently given a tape about the story and message of Medjugorje (Beyond the Fields) and in listening to it I thought it would be worthwhile reflecting on the basic core of Our Lady's message and how it relates to our call to evangelise.

Our Lady's call at Medjugorje is a four-fold call to:

RECONCILIATION
CONVERSION
PRAYER
FASTING

RECONCILIATION:

Mary's call is a call for peace between God and man and between one another. The greatest cause of division in the world is sin and this is why Jesus came—so that through his death and resurrection the power of sin could be destroyed and reconciliation restored. One mighty means we have at our disposal to bring about reconciliation in our own life is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The grace of the sacrament brings peace between us and God and between ourselves and others. How often do you go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Mary recommends that we go at least once a month. One of the fruits of confession, which I have experienced, is that it really opens us up to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When we get rid of some of the rubbish it gives the Holy Spirit room to move in our life. The more open we are to the Holy Spirit the more effective we will be as evangelisers.

CONVERSION:

If we seek conversion in the lives of others we must always be open to conversion in our own life. We don't want to become a stumbling block to others, we don't want our witness to be hollow because we do not practice what we preach. So the first aspect of conversion is our own conversion. The second aspect is the conversion of others. The thing that struck me



about the Medjugorje experience is that it's a place of signs and wonders. God has worked hundreds of miracles at Medjugorje—not only miracles of physical healing but also of nature. This shouldn't surprise us. We only need look at the history of Marian appearances in places like Lourdes and Fatima and we only need read The Acts of the Apostles. Modern man is so clever, so sophisticated, so self sufficient, so full of pride that fine testimonies, solid teaching, genuine love and faith filled conviction are often just explained away. It takes a miracle for the Holy Spirit to be able to break through. So let's pray for and expect miracles and healings in our evangelisation work.

PRAYER:

At Medjugorje Mary calls us to prayer, especially the Rosary. Pray the Ro-

sary for the conversion of souls. The power of Satan can be held back by prayer. The greatest prayer we have is the Mass. Go to Mass with expectant faith, expecting to be changed, expecting that in receiving Jesus into your heart you will be empowered, filled with the boldness of the Holy Spirit and equipped to evangelise. God has given us the mission to evangelise and God has given us the means to evangelise. Don't listen to the defeatist lies of Satan trying to discourage us and make us give up. Listen to the word of Jesus in your heart after communion, "Go out and make disciples of all nations..."

FASTING:

Mary calls for a return to the discipline of prayer-filled fasting. She recommends fasting on bread and water once or twice a week. Like many others I find fasting really difficult, except when I hear about a situation where a child is being threatened with an abortion. Then I can fast without difficulty— maybe because it is personal as I am conscious that I am praying for the life of another person. In fasting for the conversion of souls, this might be the way to go. For example, fast for a particular person in your life whom you are trying to bring to Jesus. Another way of fasting mentioned by Our Lady, is going without television. Add up in a week how many hours you spend watching TV or videos or playing computer games. For some people this might be a real challenge for fasting and by giving up some of this time they might have more time for prayer, family or apostolic work.

Finally pray a prayer of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary each day that she might continually intercede for us and the School before the throne of her son Jesus.

Evangelisation is Necessary for Salvation! - Victor Claveau—USA

What will you say when you stand before the Master on your day of judgement and He asks, "Whom did you bring with you?"

What is the purpose of our existence? The Catechism asks the question, "Who made us?" Answer: "God made us."

"Why did God make us?" Answer: "God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven."

How can we serve Him? God gives each and every person various gifts. What we do with these gifts is our offering back to God. Jesus established the Church in order to use it to bring all to salvation. The purpose of the Church is to spread the Gospel message. Each of us, as members of the body of Christ, has certain responsibilities toward the spreading of this message and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God on earth.

The time will come when each of us will stand before Jesus and be judged according to our life in the body. Some will reap the reward due to a good and faithful servant and spend eternity enveloped in God's love. Some will have to be purged of the self-love that caused their sins before they reach the perfection required to enter heaven. Others will be cast into Gehenna to suffer for all eternity.

How will we be judged? What standard will Jesus use? There is only one, and that is—perfection. Jesus made that clear in Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 5:48). Most would say that perfection is unattainable, but why would Jesus set a goal for us that we could never reach. Does He say, "Run the race, but you will never reach the fin-

ish line?" No, of course not, there must be a finish line and the corresponding reward for running a good race.

The key is in understanding what Jesus meant by "perfection". The answer, I believe, is found in St. Luke's Gospel, "And behold, a lawyer stood up to put (Jesus) to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? How do you read?' And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered right; do this, and you will live.'" (Lk 10:25-28). Love is the answer.

One of the most important ways we can show our love of God and neighbour is by sharing the Gospel message. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that evangelisation is necessary for salvation (1816). What will you say when you stand before the Master on your day of judgment and He asks, "Whom did you bring with you?" Winning souls for Christ must be the focus of our spiritual existence.

The Holy Father has been calling for a new evangelisation since the beginning of his pontificate. Few have heeded this call. The Church is in a state of turmoil, both at home and abroad. Tens of thousands fall away from the Church each and every year, primarily because they do not have a proper understanding of the Gospel message. Leaving behind Christ's Church, they travel the highways and byways in search of the true Gospel. For some the quest will bring them full circle, back home to Catholicism; others will spend their lives in a maze of contradictory theological propositions.

Yet, Church history demonstrates to us that whenever the Church has been in trouble, God has raised up saints and heroes to fight the good fight. Many of the men and women we now call Doctors of the

Church, were involved in the struggle to reclaim souls after the Protestant Revolt of the sixteenth century. God is calling each of us to be soldiers for Christ. We Catholics are in a unique position to serve the Lord by evangelising the local community. We must reach out to those within the parish and provide educational programs, for both youth and adults, which will enable a full understanding of the truths of Catholicism and sink Catholic roots so deep that they will never be undermined. We must also go beyond the parish into our communities and invite our churchless friends and neighbours to worship with us, in truth and in light. We must be on fire for Christ. Anything less is just not acceptable. Scripture states, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-17).

The Catechism describes the sacraments as "Masterworks of God" (1116) and "necessary for salvation (1129). We must do all we can to lead our loved ones, friends and neighbours to the glories of the Church and, most importantly, the sacraments.

The rewards are plentiful. Each time you share your faith with another, both benefit. The listener may begin a joyous new life in Christ and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are living up to the mandate of Christ to be a good and faithful servant.

We must be on fire for Christ. Anything less is just not acceptable.

Fear is perhaps the greatest enemy of candor. How many men fear to follow their consciences because they would rather conform to the opinion of other men than to the truth they know in their souls? How can I be sincere if I am constantly changing my mind to conform with the shadow of what I think others expect of me? Others have no right to demand that I be anything other than what I ought to be in the sight of God.

Thomas Merton

New Start in Brisbane - Cause for Celebration!

A new start for the School of Evangelisation has been made in Brisbane after a couple of years in recess. An Emmaus course was held at St Paul's parish in Woodridge on the weekend of 10-11 July. The course was presented by Pat Kelly from Victoria and Lucy and Eddie Grasso from Sydney. There were 23 participants coming from St Paul's parish and from other parts of Brisbane. Also very welcome were three travelers who made the trip from Lismore diocese (NSW) to attend the course.

The parish priest, Fr David Batey, was very pleased with the response and is keen to follow this course up with another in the near future. He sees the School of Evangelisation courses as very much in tune with the objectives outlined in the

recently completed Archdiocesan Synod.

Special thanks go to Ferdi Sedhoff who instigated the initial meeting held last September with the aim of re-starting the School in Brisbane. Also thanks to Elmer Guerra who made the approach to Fr David and was the main organiser of the course at Woodridge. They were helped by Giordano Vico and Lina Mazzochi who were part of the original School. It was great to see the Brisbane School of Evangelisation banner unfurled again.

Elmer has now taken on the role of coordinator of the Brisbane School with Ferdi, Giordano and Lina making up the team. They hope to recruit some helpers from the Emmaus graduates as they start to plan



for a busy and fruitful time of evangelisation in Brisbane and beyond.

Please keep the new Brisbane School in your prayers.

Prayer of Jabez - The Best Evangelising Prayer

Jabez was a man only mentioned once in the Bible and who we know hardly anything about. Yet his request to God of only a few lines has stood out among all the surrounding verses and become one of the most famous prayers in the Bible. Jabez was a man who was not afraid to ask God for things as we see in the boldness of his request. He provides us with a well rounded, sincere prayer which covers every aspect of evangelisation. We can say it each morning - just in case God has any spiritual gifts or blessings for us and is just waiting for us to ask for them. Jabez prays:

**Lord, that you would bless me
Indeed**

God has many blessings and many gifts for us, but he needs us to ask for them. The very act of asking is a blessing in itself, because it brings us into communion with God through prayer. Asking God for blessings and gifts constantly, can't be compared to asking another human being for favours. God never tires of our requests, never tires of giving. He **wants** us to depend on him for everything - it is not tedious for him, but a delight.

And enlarge my territory

This does not refer to material territory. God gives all of us who are interested

in evangelising, a flock. These are people he may put before us, who he needs us to introduce to him. By asking him to enlarge our territory, we're asking him to send us more and more people who need him. This is a blessing for us because not only do we bring Jesus to people, but we also see Jesus in the people we evangelise, who bring him to us - in their joy, their pain, their brokenness.

That your hand would be with me

We pray that our thoughts and words may be anointed so that we may think and speak like God, and that God opens the hearts of the people we speak to.

And that you would keep me from evil

We ask for the Lord's protection so that we will not come under spiritual attack.

That I may not cause pain

God never causes pain and if we try to imitate him we should desire to never cause pain to any other person.

If we pray this simple but powerful prayer each day, we will open our hearts to the gifts the Lord wishes to give us and we will watch our flock grow and grow.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,

“Oh, that You would
bless me indeed,
and enlarge my
territory,
That Your hand would
be with me,
And that You would
keep me from evil,
That I may not cause
pain!”

So God granted him
what he requested.

1 Chronicles 4:10



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QLD - Brisbane	Elmer Guerra	(07) 3345 8430
SA - Adelaide	Carmen Sylvester	(08) 8339 2573
WA - Perth	Irene Piercy	(08) 9443 3686

Appeal for donations



Once again we find ourselves asking those of you who can, to reach into your pockets!

Our finances remain in a sorry state due to keeping course costs as low as possible.

The cost of posting out The Witness alone, is about \$1500 each time (3 times a year).

We thank and bless you.

The Witness

Donations Acknowledged

The following donations have been received and are acknowledged with many thanks.

Rosa Pulitano VIC \$100

Mary Munnely WA \$100

Mary-Anne Reade
VIC \$420

Hildegard Baumann
VIC \$ 20

Anonymous NSW \$ 20

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7).

**Further Donations, made payable to:
School of Catholic Evangelisation
and sent to:
The Secretary
11 Joyce Avenue
Glen Waverley, VIC 3150**

**THE SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION
THANKS YOU WITH GREAT
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR
GENEROUS GIVING**

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Give God what's right
not what's left

g #
A lot of kneeling
will keep you in good standing

g #
Don't put a question mark
where God puts a full stop

g #
If you are wrinkled with cares,
come to church for a facelift

g #
When praying, don't give God
instructions—just report for duty

To Do and to Teach - Les Roberts—Canberra

Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach! Except, those who teach well, should teach, for they first do well, those who teach well. Ah, well, someone famous once said all that or something like it, I'm sure. Whatever, it seems like the cap fits and should be worn by the SOE. To teach well and believe what we teach, to live what we teach, we first need to do it and do it well - that is, evangelise.

Here in Canberra, we have sought guidance from the Holy Spirit in prayer and fasting, and have taken to the streets in response to His call. Many blessings have come our way, including the company of Brian Welsh, a noted street evangelist who takes the word of Jesus to the sad, war-torn streets of Lebanon and Iraq. Brian has done the "Paul" course with us and has had much spiritual development. His deep faith and experience is most valued.

On a couple of our outings we were also blessed with the company of Fr Ken Barker and MGL novices as well as the Kerygma team visiting from Sydney for Easter. Music and enthusiastic young people singing and performing street theatre in the city centre (city park on Easter Monday) attracted a good response. We were joined by many from parish prayer groups, the occasional parish priest and others who thanked us for our presence. On the Monday, the "others" included Pentecostal pastor and family

and a member of the Bible Society, who told us he came to the park to quietly read his bible, but we gave a better option. He joined us for some time and has since furnished us with an amount of material. Praise the Lord.

Without this support after Easter, when we again placed a couple of teams into the city center, we found a much less interested crowd. In a city that is more and more secular and less and less Godly there lurks a sinister spiritual decay. Many made it quite



clear they did not want anything to do with Jesus. The gods of silver and gold still plague the world. so as to do well!"

For us who evangelise, there is the absolute need to live the life of Jesus before we can possibly seek to carry his word. This incorporates the necessity of prayer and fasting, daily Mass and Eucharist, Liturgy of the

Hours and Rosary, frequent reconciliation, adoration, scripture and spiritual reading - applied so we can adopt a humble spirit or Christ-like charity and a benevolence to all. This is not an exact formula. In short we **must** live the message to be able to deliver the message.

But, be warned, to live Jesus and share him with the world is to encounter all that is opposed to him. We must be prepared for the spiritual warfare that will seek to block us. Here lies the importance of prayer, fasting and lifestyle - our spiritual armor. Even so, we can expect to be flooded by self doubt, discouragement and a myriad of obstacles. Here, we must place emphasis on the School motto (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me), inviting constant meditation on it and having reassurance that the enemy attacks those who pose a threat, especially those doing the work of the Lord—and that is when Jesus is closest to us.

Let us focus our teachings on the ever important task of spreading the Good News of Jesus, otherwise known as evangelising. May our Heavenly Father shower his blessings on us all as we evangelise - to do and to teach.

Thank you.

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Les Roberts.

Emmaus Wagga Wagga - Kay Judd

Sixteen participants completed the Emmaus course this past June. Teachers were Adrian Commadeur and Nan Deakin. It truly was a heart warming journey with Jesus as the Old Testament scriptures were brought to life. The weather was cold outside but inside, I believe many hearts were set aflame as people came to understand the relationship between the Old and New Testaments and how the Old Testament foretold the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

It was good to see the participants' creative efforts and they really did themselves proud in becoming involved in the parts of Old Testament characters - the learned and the

teachers of Israel and the prophets.

We had a beautiful 'Emmaus Journey' Mass with the participants doing the readings and taking part in the offertory procession. Fr Ryan handed out certificates to each of the participants following the completion of the course.

Participants thoughts about the course were: wonderful; very good; have a greater understanding of Emmaus; brought the scriptures alive. Also, some thought that by taking on the role of the characters, they were able to gain a greater appreciation of the Emmaus Journey. One person said they really enjoyed the weekend and felt as if they had been trans

ported back in time and was actually one of the Jewish people!

We thank Adrian and Nan for their wonderful teaching and their dedication to evangelisation and spreading the word of the Lord and for bringing the scriptures alive for us.



New Life in Christ 27-28 March 2004 - Merrylands - by Sally Worner

Recently I was at the Catholic Charismatic Centre and I picked up a flyer for the **New Life** course. I thought I would love to attend and wouldn't it be nice to share it with my husband, Tim? It would be great to go and learn more about God and his love together. But what would we do with our four wonderful children? So I said to God, "I will leave it in your hands." I took the flyer, put it in my bible and prayed that Jesus would make a way. A few weeks later, Lucy Grasso told me that we could bring the children because they were going to have a **New Life for Kids** course running at the same time. *Thank you, Lord!*

The New Life Course is all about exchanging our old lives for a new life in Christ. Unlike most courses/seminars that I have been to, the **New Life** course is very powerful because of the many dynamics throughout. Not only are we hearing God's Word through the talks, but we are also visualising God's word through the dynamics. I was taught many things over the two days. I learnt about Jesus' wonderful love, about his never-ending forgiveness, about



having faith and trust in him, about the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit and that God is my only salvation. Even though I had heard talks on these topics before, through the **New Life** course I was challenged in a new way to turn to Jesus, to put my faith and trust in him and to come and follow him.

Since the **New Life** course, I have made God the Lord of my life. I know how much he loves me and no matter what I do, his arms are open and waiting for me and he will never ever stop loving me. I have put my total trust in him and I know, with the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.

Thank you, Sue, for allowing Tim and me to experience God's love together. It was a wonderful boost to our marriage to be there together. I know our God blessed us in a special way that weekend. The kids had a fantastic time. They were so enthusiastic, each day saying what a great time they had. They loved all the activities and brought home things to show us. Daniel said to me on Sunday night, "thanks for organising the weekend for us, Mum. It was great spending the time doing activities about Jesus."

May God bless you, Sue, with your special gift of bringing God to children.

Editor's Note: If anyone wishes to host a New Life course in their parish, please contact Pat Kelly on (03) 5672 2772.

Evaluating 'New Life' in Bendigo

In May a team of four, Gary Stephens, Sam and Jo Giudice, and Adrian Commadeur presented the New Life in the Eaglehawk Parish. Denise Illott and team, coordinated and the parish priest, Fr Des Nedledsen hosted the teachers.

An evaluation from the 16 participants was generally favourable, though one comment was, "there could have been less surrendering and more receiving." Some other comments were: "

- a great experience for all ages - God gives us a choice to follow Him, to accept and be loved by Him - we found the course very enlightening. (It) encourages anybody seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus

Christ - I recommend the course to anyone... to experience a life changing experience - Polished and well presented presentation... However (the team) were too dogmatic and allowed no place for questions - Participants were constantly challenged and made to leave our comfort zones - A wonderful weekend - My overall experience of the day (one only) left me feeling that the SOE New Life approach is not for me - A rewarding experience - Very enriching experience - All (presenters were) honest, entertaining, thought provoking and interesting - We were constantly challenged and made to leave our comfort zones to really search ourselves and completely surrender to God - Well prepared and

inspiring - pity not enough time to workshop the gifts of the Spirit - Rewarding experience, Charismatic



groups have not been my way of prayer, but content and presentation... very informative, especially I loved the knowledge imparted about the Holy Spirit and His beautiful gifts,

SOE—HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM

Sam Guidice

Some time back my wife Jo and I were asked by Adrian Commadeur if we would like to take a more active role in the SOE. After much prayer and discernment, we accepted, not really knowing what we were getting ourselves into, but having learnt that when Jesus comes knocking on your door, He wants you to let Him in.

Our first experience was to sit in the New Life course run for the Mill Park Cell groups. It was great! We participated in activities, took many pages of notes and thoroughly enjoyed the course. As a result of that course we have kept in touch with some of the members of one of the cell groups - praise God for bringing loving and caring people into our lives. But then came the crunch, we were asked which talks would we like to do.

Prayers went into high gear, palms began to perspire and extra doses of high blood pressure tablets were on the menu.

Our first teaching assignment was to be at Sorrento but was postponed - isn't God good? My wife, Jo, and I were not quite ready and God gave us some extra time to prepare ourselves. Two weeks later we were in Bendigo and two weeks after that we were at Sorrento.

Well what can I say? If four years ago anyone said that Jo and I would be teaching with the SOE, I would have laughed in their faces and told them they were in na na land. But God knows what He is doing and He gently guides us in doing what He knows we can do, not what we believe we can do.

Jo and I are not public speakers and prior to joining our prayer group had no exposure to public speaking. I get very nervous and begin to perspire when I am about to speak. As soon as I feel the beads of

perspiration forming on my brow I get even more nervous and perspire even more - it's a never ending cycle.

I remember the first times I gave presentations in our prayer group, I would take off my glasses so I could not see the eyes of the listeners, only blurred faces. Now I keep my glasses on and when I perspire, I gently wipe my brow with a motion of a windscreen wiper and continue in the knowledge that the Lord has brought one of the participants there to hear His words and touch their hearts through me. I am just the messenger, it's God's message that's important.



Sometimes in my quiet times, I ask the Lord "Why me?" The reply is "Why not me?" Jesus did not call scholars to be His disciples, He called ordinary people who had no special qualification other than the willingness to listen and learn.

I recall the night we were driving down to Bendigo for our first teaching, I asked Jo, "What are we doing?" At this stage of our lives we should have been slowing down and taking it easy, but you know what? We would not change anything. It's not easy working for God, but nothing worthwhile ever is.

I urge every one of you to support the School, not only by attend the different courses, but also by inviting others to come along, they

don't have to belong to a prayer group. In fact, the New Life course is structured to cater for parishioners. And finally I ask that you search your heart and ask yourselves, can I do more? Matthew 9:36-38 *And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest."*

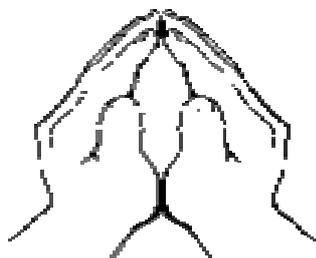
There are many people out there who have not experienced the love and peace that only Jesus can give. Reflect on how you felt after doing one of the School's courses. Wouldn't you like your friends to feel that peace and joy? Many more labourers are needed, so ask yourselves, "Why not me?" and then respond by saying, "Here I am Lord."

I am doing what I am doing today because some years back I said "yes" to the question, "Do you want to give your life to Christ." Mind you, that was only a half hearted "yes". But Our Lord accepted my "yes" and equipped me to do His work. I don't worry about making mistakes or losing my train of thought or forgetting things when I am working for Him because I know I will not forget what is important to Him.

God wants all of us to work for Him, despite our weakness and fragility. He knows what we are capable of doing - all we need to do is accept and allow Him to do the rest. Remember Philipians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

I give praise and thanks to Our Lord for the wonders He performs in our lives and the blessings He gives. May the Love and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Beautiful words from Mother Teresa



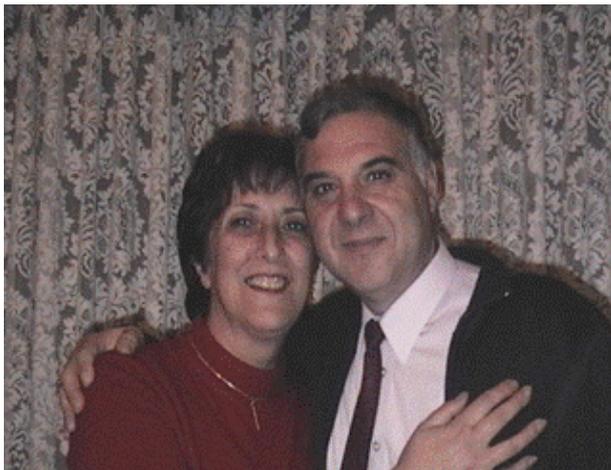
God has created all things. All the butterflies, the animals—the whole of nature... To them He has not given the will power to choose. They have only an instinct. Animals can be very lovable and love very beautifully, but that is out of instinct. But the human being can choose. That is the one thing that God does not take from us. The will power, the power to will. I want to go to heaven and I will, with the grace of God. If I choose to commit sin and go to hell, that is my

choice. God cannot force me to do otherwise. That's why when we become religious we give up that will power. That is why the sacrifice is so great; the vow of obedience is very difficult. Because in making that vow you surrender the only thing that is your own—your will power. Otherwise my health, my body, my eyes, my everything are all His and He can take them. I can fall, I can break, but my will power doesn't go like this. I must choose to give it and that is beautiful.

JO GUIDICE

The Lord has given us a New Life in His Spirit and it is His great joy, peace and abundant love that compels us to bring His message to all who have an open heart to receive his blessings. He has done, and continues to do, wondrous things through the smallest and lowliest of creatures - I am constantly in awe of his work of re-creation.

The SOE has meant a great deal to our personal journey on this road of life. From the onset in July 2001 when Sam and I were tiny babes walking hand in hand on



this amazing journey, not knowing where we were going, we attended the Lord's Hands Seminar - not without some fear I must add.

The word "evangelisation" conjured up some wild imaginings of knocking on doors and preaching fire and brimstone, but we found that the basis of evangelisation is to

share God's love and forgiveness. Our eyes and hearts were fully opened. This was a message that we could and wanted to share with others. We took up the challenge put to us by two of the SOE teachers, Carmen and Sandra, and left our comfort zone, and even though we were still babes, we trusted that the Lord would empower us to bring the teaching to our newly formed prayer group and parish community.

But our journey didn't stop there. It was just the beginning of this unquenchable thirst to learn more and share our blessings with others. With this mindset, I attended the **Intercessory Prayer** course and Sam joined me for the **Discernment** course in September. Shortly afterwards, Sandra Bishop gave a teaching at the prayer group and invited us to attend the **John** course, now this was really stretching our comfort zone, but we accepted the invitation.

Never in my wildest imagination could I ever have foreseen the freedom and blessings that we have received as a result of our willingness to surrender all to the Lord. Our thirst is still strong and the hunger never seems to be satisfied. It only leads us deeper and deeper in service making us want to share the morsels we receive along our journey until we reach the banquet that awaits us at our final destination without fear, knowing that we are safely in the hands of Our Lord.

I give praise and thanks to the Lord for the work of CCR and the SOE because through the hearts of his servants, he has brought new life in abundance to this broken and empty vessel. How can I refuse to share my blessings when this love that I have been freely given, oozes out of every crack and crevice of my being?

May the Lord bless you all abundantly with love and peace always.

Equipping Parishes for Mission

The Decision Making Body of the SOE has recently decided to undergo a re-structure in order to be able to work more closely with parishes.

When this change is effected, the School will be able to facilitate such courses as Emmaus, New Life, John and Paul at parish level.

Incidentally, the Archdiocese of Melbourne has, at the same time, established an Office for Evangelisation under the headship of Fr Greg Bennet.

Gary Stephens, coordinator of the Melbourne SOE, has written to Archbishop Hart in order to present a proposition to him that the School become involved in this Office.

In this letter, Archbishop Hart is informed of the history of the School in both Australia and the rest of the world. He is advised of the School's work in Australia and is given the vision of the School.

The letter advises: "The fundamental objective and mission of the Melbourne SOE is to help equip, develop and foster a Mission Mentality within parishes. This then enables the parish to be Missionary in all its work. Parishioners making use of the various resources available today (Inviting Catholics Home, Cell Groups, Alpha, Prayer Groups and CAFE Catholics etc) go out into their respective communities focussed on Mission. Parishes do not have to necessarily change or adapt to new programs or resources, but adapt a 'Missionary Mentality' to better use their existing programs and resources.

"The Melbourne School supports these recommendations, and offers the Archdiocese our skills and positioning to support the pioneering work of the Office for Evangelisation. The Melbourne SOE has advocated

wherever possible, the formation of evangelisation teams at parish level and has at all times attempted to encourage lay people to form and take positions of leadership in local evangelisation activities."

Among the recommendations in the letter, are: recognition of the important role of the laity in formation and evangelisation leadership; each parish to appoint a contact person for evangelisation who will liaise with existing and future diocesan agencies to promote and maintain the diocesan focus of mission and evangelisation; and the recognition that an Evangelisation Agency can be created.

Gary has requested an appointment with Archbishop Hart, in order to be able to present the School's ideas to him. He has also asked for the Archbishop's blessing and approval of the School's work.



Dabbling with the Devil - Anna Breheny

In my search for answers when my husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor, there had only been more questions. An eternal circle of seeking but never finding. It was because I was searching in all the wrong places. I read Godless books, questioned Godless people, went to Godless places. Only when I found God, did I break the link and discover the answers my soul so desperately thirsted for. Before I found him, however, I was to delve in the most unsavory of places for comfort, knowledge, enlightenment and healing.

One such place was the upstairs room of the local New Age bookshop, where I did a course on psychic healing. "Just place your hands on your patient," came the smooth voice of the teacher, "and the universal life force will channel through you and into the person you're treating, and the healing will begin."

So we all obeyed, accepting this woman as our god and following her instructions and beliefs blindly, even though we knew nothing about her. I cannot deny she had the best of intentions and a true desire to heal. But I noticed she would use Christ's name often, while admitting she had never read his Word. And she thought it was acceptable to charge money for her healing service. Her focus was certainly not on Christ, as she mentioned him only when and how it suited her. She was grossly misinformed and it's exactly this lack of truth which causes people to become such easy victims to these trends.

There are countless instruments of spiritism available to us today. Psychic healings, astrology, fortune-tellers, witchcraft, mediums, tarot cards, runes, crystal healings, séances, ouija boards and many more. All these come under the umbrella of the New Age movement. Many tend to branch out into other practices, therefore becoming directly related to the **occult**.

The dictionary definition of 'occult' is: *a hiding of one heavenly body by another passing between it and the observer*. When we engage in New Age or occult practices, it is the devil - God's eternal adversary - who we allow to position himself between God and us, thus concealing God from our view. When we engage in spiritual practices apart from God, our attention is not on God, but instead, on the only other spiritual entity out there—the devil.

The devil is referred to in the Bible as the *father of lies* (Jn 8:44) and the biggest lie he has conned this world into believing, is that he doesn't exist. But the mere fact we believe in God and his Word, automatically obliges us to believe in the devil.

It was my impatience, my desire for my husband's immediate healing, which led me to seek out alternative healing methods. But God has used my husband's long illness to teach me many things. He has taught me that the face of opportunity can often hide behind the mask of tragedy; that behind every form of suffering we may experience, there dwells the certainty of hope and the chance to grow if we look in the right places; that the advantage of **keeping our eyes on God**, far outweighs the pain or suffering in our particular situation.

In that upstairs room, I would wait for this personality-less, universal life force which was the teacher's idea of god, to heal my husband. But the Bible says, *Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God* (Col 1:15), so I know God does have a personality and he does have a face - the face of Jesus, the only Divine Healer who always heals free of charge. And I know now that what we were doing in that upstairs room was not in his name.

My knowledge of God and the Bible back then was so limited that I allowed myself to become involved in such a practice, which led me to other even more undesirable ones. However, none of it ever sat right with me. I was always questioning and doubting. One day, my husband told me to put myself out of my misery and simply ask God whether it was right or not. So I did and during my prayer, God showed me a picture of a church. Inside was a large oval table with men in brown suits sitting all around it—a decision making body of some sort. God was guiding me to the church for my answer. I went straight to the phone to call Father. The first thing he said to me after I explained, was: "If it's not Christian, don't touch it." And there was my answer, given through God's representative, the priest. This one sentence summed it up not only for me but for all of humanity.

Many people today are locked in an everlasting search for the "right" spirituality. They are unaware that the right one, in fact, the only one, is directly under their noses. Jesus died for every person who ever lived and was to ever live, so Christianity is for everyone. In

no other religion or alternative spirituality has its leader claimed to be the Son of God. Never before has any person been reported to have died and been resurrected for the redemption of the sins of humanity. We cannot pass Jesus by in our search for the truth, because he is the *way, the truth and the light* (John 14:6).

When we are drawn into the occult, we unknowingly engage ourselves in a battle against evil, which is always out there working on the tendencies of our hearts to be independent of God. We find ourselves fighting, not *against human beings*, but *against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age* (Eph 6:12). How can we, as mere human beings, ever expect to win such a battle?

Some may say, what's the harm in investigating these things a little? We can look to the story of Adam and Eve for the answer. Had our first parents not allowed the devil to stand between themselves and God, the world would not be in the mess it is in today. There would be no sickness, war, natural disaster, famine, hatred, fear - no death. God was all they needed, yet their curiosity compelled them to search further than him against his express command. Now, every person to ever live suffers because of it.

The church is the only place of truth because it is the dwelling place of Christ, the only source of divine healing. Not the fortune teller who claims to know our future, nor the medium who promises to put us in touch with our deceased loved ones. Quiet time in meditative prayer is infinitely more beneficial to us than Yoga or Tai-Chi. What a blessing it is when we allow Jesus to reveal himself to us through prayer, the Church and the Bible.

When we dabble with the devil, we find ourselves on the edge of a quickly crumbling cliff that leads to the blackest darkness. As surely as the only way into this Godless abyss is through the devil, the only way to the Father is through Jesus. God is the one we will all have to face in the end and he is quite firm when he warns, *Let there not be found among you... a fortune teller, soothsayer, diviner or caster of spells, nor one who consults ghosts and spirits or seeks oracles from the dead. Anyone who does such things is an abomination to the Lord.* (Deut 18:10-12).

Children Needing Prayers

Mother's Prayers is a group for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren, and is for all spiritual mothers.

Over a period of time, Veronica and Sandra from England felt a growing need to pray in a more committed way in order to combat the problems that their children were facing. Sandra had been awakened twice in the night with the words, "Pray for your children." Veronica had been reading a book called, *What on Earth are we doing to our children* (a book full of statistics and evidence of the dangers facing our children), and she realised that the only answer was prayer.

They decided to pray and during this preparation period, they were given the scripture Jeremiah 31:16, *Stop your crying and wipe away your tears. All that you have done for your children will not go unrewarded. They will return from the enemy's land. There is a hope for your future. Your children will come back. I, the Lord have spoken.*

They kept praying and the Lord opened doors for them. Since 1995 this group has now spread to 70 countries. Many blessings have come through *Mother's Prayers*, with many children coming back to their faith and many having found work or been recon-

ciled with their families. Others reports include improvement in health, children coming off drugs and babies being born to mothers who have had several miscarriages.

The Lord is honouring his promise: *Ask and you shall receive.*

We must also acknowledge that our prayers are always answered. Even though it is not always in the way we expected, we must trust that it is always for the best - that is, according to the Lord's holy will in our lives.

Mothers, too, have told us of the blessings they have received as they share in prayer with other mothers in a Christian and confidential way. We welcome all women whether married or single, who have the desire to pray for children.

Being part of *Mother's Prayers* is a wonderful comfort to us, especially knowing that we are united with other mothers throughout the world and that they, too, are praying for our children.



Our meeting begins with prayer to the Holy Spirit to guide the meeting. Then each person in the group is invited to read a prayer for protection, unity, forgiveness and thanksgiving. During the meeting we have some songs of praise and a scripture reading. The meetings under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can be adapted to suit all spiritualities.

We then pray for our children and surrender them to the Lord, knowing that He loves them more than we do. We prayerfully place paper discs with the names of our children on them in a basket at the foot of the cross. This is a symbol for us that we are placing our children into Jesus' care.

The power of *Mother's Prayers* can be found in the scriptures, in Matthew 18:19 - *If two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.*

What a great promise! What a powerful force for good when mothers all round the world are united in prayer for our children.

Our motto is: Mother's love conquers the world and united in prayer we save our children.

Please cut and post to address on back

Registration Form: *Formation in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit* (27-30 Sep 2004); and *Secret of Paul* (4-8 Oct 2004). Both courses at *Our Lady Help of Christians – Nicholson St East Brunswick.* #

Name.....

AddressSuburbp/c

Phone (H) (Mob) (Email).....

Please tick the appropriate box(es) indicating which course(s) you will be attending:

- Formation in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit* (\$60-00)
- Secret of Paul* (\$75-00)

Parish / Prayer Group I require Billeting/Transportation (Circle)

Enclosed please find \$ 50% Dep required with Registration (Cheques made payable to *Catholic School of Evangelisation*)

**Please bring your Bible and a packed lunch.
Courses run from 9.00am to 5.00pm.**

God bless

Contact: Adrian Commadeur on 03 9337-2051 for more information.