



# The Witness

Catholic Schools of Evangelisation National Newsletter

May 2007

## *We have a Dream*

In February this year the new School of Evangelisation team from Nerang stood up in front of their fellow parishioners, their Parish Priest, Fr Joseph Sardie, and their Archbishop, John Bathersby and proclaimed that they had a dream:

“We have a dream that St Brigid’s church will be a centre point for the people of God. And in our dream we see people with an excited happiness when they meet, an excitement that flows right through the worship of our God. We see the church full to overflowing with a people excited about who they are, and what they are in God.

We see St Brigid’s as a light to the town of Nerang, a light to the archdiocese of Brisbane, yet still, a light for the whole world. The light in Spirit and Truth, Jesus our Lord and Saviour.”

These people were responding to the invitation of their priest, Fr Joseph Sardie, who shares the dream. In his appeal to parishioners in the lead up to establishing the School he shared his vision of what a School of Evangelisation could achieve for a parish.

“The primary aim is to teach us to evangelise at the grass roots level. These four courses are highly interactive with lots of writing, praying, drama and music.

The secondary aim is for each parish to form their own School of Evangelisation. Then we can offer the courses to our parish at Nerang on a regular basis in the future. This will enable more parishioners to be evangelised.

After finishing the Evangelisation Program we will be able to conduct other evangelisation outreach courses like Catholics Returning Home, Alpha, Café etc in a new light.

We Catholics have been great on sacramentalising our children and not evangelising them. This Program will feed back into our school as we interact with our children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist.”

## *... St. Brigid's Nerang, Qld.*



Nerang SOE being commissioned by Archbishop Bathersby and Fr. Joseph Sardie.

The fruit is already starting to flow with the first New Life course held in March. Evidence of this is the feedback from some of the participants:

- “I felt my heart set on fire, by a genuine passion of love for God expressed by the Team.”
- “The adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the prayer for healing helped us to experience oneness and transcendence with God.”
- “With all the scripture passages presented it became clear that this is a course on evangelisation and not on catechesis or dogma.”
- “The music was awesome and inspiring. I really felt the Holy Spirit many times during the course.”
- “While each topic was relevant and of equal importance, the love of God talk was most outstanding and awe inspiring for me.”
- “The course was both inspirational and transformational thanks to the Holy Spirit, and to the dedicated School of Evangelisation team.”

Praise God for the parishioners of St Brigid’s and I know the Holy Spirit will come upon them, he will fill them with power and they will be witnesses for Jesus in Nerang. (Acts 1:8)

Pat Kelly

## The Witness

This newsletter is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne, Australia. It is published in April, August and December.

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*Check out information about the  
School of Evangelisation  
on our new web page:*

[www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au](http://www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au)

Post, email or fax your articles of an evangelical nature, personal testimonies, jokes, news items, photos, advertisements, competitions, Bible trivia etc. to the Editor at the above address. Photos need to be at least 300 KB, preferably more, in a JPG format.

The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

**Deadline for the next issue of  
The Witness  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2007**

The School of Evangelisation acknowledges the efforts of all Coordinators involved in the distribution of this newsletter.  
May God bless you!

### School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

**To contribute to the formation of evangelising parishes by offering a formation program which:**

- ▶ FORMS DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAINS EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISHES PARISH SCHOOLS OF EVANGELISATION.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

In case you haven't heard, World Youth Day is coming in July 2008!

In April School of Evangelisation representatives from Melbourne, Sydney and Wollongong attended the 2007 Colloquium on the New Evangelisation in Sydney. The Colloquium was organised by the Catholic Renewal & Evangelisation Diocesan Office (CREDO) in Sydney and led by Bishop Julian Porteous (Aux Sydney).

The key focus of the day was the coming World Youth Day. Talks and discussion centred on our need to keep the focus on Jesus, to see the event as a great evangelisation opportunity, and to seize the opportunity it presents so as to raise up a new generation of young committed Catholics.

This evangelisation mega event will not only involve Sydney. There will be a great need to prepare the pilgrim youth before they go and an even greater need to follow them up when they return. The people organising WYD both in Sydney and in each diocese, are well aware of this need and are looking for help in evangelising and forming our young people. As a School of Evangelisation we need to look for opportunities in our own diocese, parish and schools to get involved and offer help to make WYD a great success in bringing people to Jesus.

Pat Kelly.



Above are the SOE representatives at the CREDO Colloquium.

### *A Prayer for World Youth Day*

*Holy Spirit pour out your grace  
on this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit  
and grant to us a New Pentecost.*

*Make of this land a true place of welcome  
for the young people of the world.*

*Grant to those young people who come,  
conversion of life,  
a deeper faith and love for all.*

*Enable them to build a new civilization of life,  
love and truth.*

*Make them true witnesses  
to your power and grace. Amen  
Mary McKillop, Pray for us.*

# DESIRE THE HOLY SPIRIT !

By Bishop Joe Grech

Without any doubt one of the most momentous events in the history of our Catholic Church was the Second Vatican Council. In the nineteen sixties, Pope John XXIII asked the Bishops of the world to come together with him in Rome to discern where the Holy Spirit was leading the church. When he officially declared his desire to have this Council, Pope John XXIII prayed that a new Pentecost will be experienced by all. On the eve of Pentecost in 2004, Pope John Paul II likewise prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all people of good will especially on those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost is a major feast in the Church, because it celebrates the promise of Jesus that He will not leave us alone but that he will send His Holy Spirit to enable us, encourage us, and guide us to live like Him. In the Acts of the Apostles, St Luke gives us a description of what occurred when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as they were all locked in the upper room full of anxiety and fear. He described the presence of the Holy Spirit with the symbols of wind and fire. There are very apt descriptions of the presence of Jesus Christ within us. Fire denotes the refining power of God. Fire goes on the inside, affects and reaches the deepest core of who we are. The Holy Spirit touches us at the very heart of who we are to change us radically enabling us to have the gifts and qualities of Jesus Christ. Wind denotes freedom. The Holy Spirit works powerfully in all those who willingly open themselves to His presence.

In the Old Testament, the feast of Pentecost marked an agriculture festival celebrating and giving thanks for the first fruits of the early harvest. However, in the time of Jesus, Pentecost recalled the giving of the law of Moses by God. St Augustine tells us that fifty days after the immolation of the lamb in Egypt (Jewish Passover) the finger of God gave His law on Mt Sinai. This means that the Holy Spirit is the interior law of God. Pentecost celebrates the fact that through baptism and confirmation all of us are empowered by the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ. This presence enables us to look at God as a friend and an ally. It helps us to feel God as our daddy. This presence empowers us to go beyond what is expected of us in order to go the extra mile, to accomplish heroic things in the name of our God. Without the Holy Spirit we will never be able to accomplish the same works as Jesus did.



In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 37, we have an awesome description of what the Holy Spirit does in the lives of those who believe in God. Ezekiel was led by God to a valley full of dry bones and God asked him whether these bones could live. Ezekiel replied that if God wanted them to live they would. God asked Ezekiel to prophesy over those bones so that they would live. Ezekiel did as God commanded him. The bones came together, they were covered with sinews, flesh started to grow on them and skin covered the flesh. But there was something missing. There was no breath in them. They lacked something vital and crucial. There was a semblance of a body but they were without life. Then God asked Ezekiel to command the breath of God to enter them. As soon as this happened "they came to life and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army". (Ez 37:10). From dry lifeless bones, they became mighty and awesome warriors. This is what the Holy Spirit enables us to become: mighty and powerful witnesses to the reality that our God is alive and doing well in our time through Jesus Christ.

Today we are witnessing many people who are giving heroic witness to our faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we do the shopping for our elderly neighbours, when we greet someone who seems to be alone, when we give a word of encouragement, when we pray with people, when we persist to seek peace against all odds and when we do our best for our families and marriage relationships. All these ministries point to the presence of Jesus Christ alive in us through the Holy Spirit.

Glenn and Trish got married some years back. They were hoping to start a family. They were looking forward to bringing life into the world and to nurture their children with their own love and with the values of our Catholic faith. However, the doctors diagnosed that they could not have children. The adopted four children. However they adopted children who suffered from physical disabilities. That was a decision that they made because they desired to share their expansive love with those who perhaps needed it more. What an amazing God we have. We are called to do what seems to be impossible and to what seems to be too hard to achieve. With God in us, nothing is impossible.

Continued P.4 ....



## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007, members of St Monica's Prayer Group stepped out in faith as we manned a Prayer Tent at the annual Moonee Valley Festival. Held in Queens Park Moonee Ponds, this event attracts 60,000 people and provided an ideal opportunity to project a Christian presence amongst New Age spiritualities.

The Lord graced us with many blessings: perfect weather, a good location, a happy band of volunteers and wonderful support from other prayer groups. As a community stall we were not allowed to sell anything, but our table had free bibles, flyers, Good News magazines and Christian stationary for kids. All members were amused to note that our neighbouring stall was the local angling club, when we were fishing for men!

We weren't inundated with requests for prayers, but had enough to make our efforts worth-

while. Most people were open to receiving a copy of the miracle prayer and young children loved the stickers and pencils, although sadly, many didn't know who Jesus is. The highlight of our day was our parish priest, Mgr Peter Kenny, visiting us which boosted our morale. Our stall was a magnet of unity for other Christian denominations as they expressed their delight at our presence.

St Monica's prayer group has already decided to return to the Festival next year. I felt immense satisfaction bringing the light of Christ to others and strongly encourage other prayer groups to get involved in their local community too. We are not meant to be timid Christians, but to be soldiers of Christ and his witnesses in the marketplace. So step out in faith today and watch the Lord's graces fall.

Mary Crawford.

## A RESPONSE & A CHALLENGE

Thank you very much for the History of Salvation course in Brisbane. I really love the classes and I think that it is a fantastic course. I even think that Catholic high schools should be using it in their Religion syllabus. All throughout high school we were taught about the major differences between Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. But instead of teaching us the differences and then explaining why we, as Christians and then, as Catholics believe what we do, they seemed to just be telling the students, "Here you go, these are the four major religions, you pick one that you like."

At my Catholic high school, there was no teaching of what Catholics believe and why. It was all about what was interesting about what other religious groups believe. As part of the high school Study of Religion subject, we visited a Jewish synagogue and Buddhist temple but when we returned to school, none of the teachers said, "Right, well the difference between Catholics and others is this . . .

and we should be proud of our beliefs because . . ." In fact, it was as though they were promoting other religions and that is exactly how all my peers took it. Most of my friends would say during and after our Study of Religion classes that they thought Buddhism was "so cool" and they were going to become a Buddhist – and some did!

I wanted to be taught the Bible and the catechism. But it is as if, in this world of political correctness, teachers are too scared to tell the students what it is that Catholics believe and what is good about it.

I have yearned for a course like yours for a very long time and I am really learning everything I wanted to know about the Story of Salvation through the Bible and I want to thank you very very much.

God Bless,  
Young Catholic woman now in 2<sup>nd</sup> year at University.

### From P.3 .... **DESIRE THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

This promise is also meant for you and me. It could be that there is someone reading these words who would say, Yes I wish that I could experience this power of the Holy Spirit, but I do not know what to do. How do you feel the Holy Spirit? My sister, my brother, there are three things that you can do.

**Firstly**, desire the Holy Spirit to be made manifest in you. Desire deeply to experience the Holy Spirit.

**Secondly**, do not take any notice of any object



-tion that you may come up with, or that your friends may present to you. The promise of the Holy Spirit was made by Jesus and He is living in you through you baptism and confirmation.

**Thirdly**, pray every day "Come Holy Spirit". God will not act until we give Him permission to do so.

*"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of you faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love". Amen.*

God bless.

Bishop Joe.

# Holy Spirit Roars into Adelaide

By Carmen Sylvester

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March just as the Clip-sal 500 cars roared around the streets of Adelaide we enjoyed the roaring of the Holy Spirit as Ron Joseph ministered to a group of 25 people who choose to come to the Faith on Fire Seminar.

We thank God that we made that choice, as what we received were powerful teachings on the Mystery of Good Friday and the Joy of the Resurrection.

Our day started with an amazing Praise and Worship session led by young Tanya Lawless who not only sings like an angel but worships with such a heart dedicated to God that our own hearts were lifted up to higher level of worship. Our time of worship finished with a mantra, "I'll never know how much it cost to see my sins upon the cross", and so our hearts were opened to listen and take to heart the message that was anointed by the Holy Spirit as it was spoken to us by Ron Joseph. Ron encouraged us to imitate Jesus in carrying our daily crosses. As Jesus embraced His Cross we too in our weakest moments have got the power to embrace the cross because we have the help of our Savior who knows how painful life can be. "He never leaves you or forsakes you" that is the promise.

We were reminded that God allows crosses to those he loves for the purpose of testing and strengthening our Faith as he did with Abraham when he asked him to sacrifice his only son. Simon of Cyrene is a great example of someone who did not make a choice to carry the cross but was forced upon him and yet he did not refuse it but took it upon himself to imitate Jesus and in fact giving Jesus some consolation.

In the tradition of the School of Evangelization we had a focal point to keep us focused on the message we were receiving. The Crucifix in a central position surrounded by a crown of thorns, nails and hammer. The teaching ended with a powerful dynamic as everyone was given the opportunity to come forward and venerate the cross and hand over to Jesus all our burdens, concern, temptations and areas of un-forgiveness.

Using another of his many talents Ron joined Tanya as one by one, we all made our way to the foot of the cross as they sang, "Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down; here I am to say that you're my God.



Tanya

Ron

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
altogether wonderful to me.  
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross."

In the afternoon after enjoying a leisurely lunch and fellowship Ron spoke to us about the Joy of the Resurrection, and then all of us experienced the promise of Pentecost as we all received prayer for the re- release of the

Holy Spirit.

It was a most anointed preparation for our Lenten journey and Easter celebrations. Our sincere thanks to both Ron and his lovely wife Philomena who accompanied him from Melbourne and took it upon herself to prepare a sheet of scripture quotes beneficial for Lent and also scriptural book-marks which she offered to all of us.

It was unanimously agreed that our day was richly blessed by the ministry of Ron Joseph and we look forward to seeing him back in Adelaide in the near future.

Wishing you the Blessings of Easter and Pentecost.

**S. A. School of Evangelisation invites you to:**

## FAITH ON FIRE SEMINAR

*"Fan into a flame the gift  
that God has given you."*

2 Timothy 1 : 6

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**10.00 am to 3.00 pm**

**Monastery (Sebastian Centre)  
15 Cross Road, Glen Osmond  
(Behind the Church)**

***Singing! Talks! Workshop!  
Shared Lunch! & PRAYER!!***

*Guest Speaker*

***Adrian Commadeur  
Coordinator Melbourne S.O.E***

**Please bring a Bible & lunch to share.  
Tea & Coffee provided.**

**Your generous donations will cover costs for the day.**

Inquiries: Carmen 8339 2573 or Angie 8382 7257

## THE PYMBLE STORY

..... By Jill Seymour

At the beginning of 2006 Lucy Grasso, co-ordinator of the Sydney School of Evangelisation (SOE), asked Michael van Ommen and myself (both members of the Sydney School) to implement a parish based SOE in the Broken Bay Diocese. We were fortunate as we did have a base to start with. The Sydney School had been welcomed by Fr Tadeusz, parish priest of Sacred Heart Church, Pymble and had held three courses in the parish over the past three years. I approached Fr Tadeusz asking him whether we could form a SOE in the Parish. With his permission in February 2006 I sent a letter to all parishioners who had participated in these earlier courses inviting them to a meeting, which Fr Tadeusz attended. On 16th March our parish team of ten people was formed.

We immediately started preparing to hold a 'New Life' course. Knowing our parish we decided that we would have more chance of attracting participants if we held the course over five weekday evenings rather than a weekend. Fr Tadeusz suggested that we included 'Sharing Groups' at the end of each session. We all worked extremely hard. The format had to be changed to a 2 hour weekly run course. Of the six presenters only Michael and I had prepared and given teachings before, so the others had to be helped with their teachings and trained to present them. The Dynamics had to be well thought out to fit into the strict time frame, as we were determined to start and finish on time - only the Holy Spirit got that to happen! We started the New Life course on 7th September with 38 participants. It was a rewarding experience. We worked very well as a team and learned a great

deal. Parishioners enjoyed the community experience and listening to a 'variety of speakers talking about the different topics in a very personal way.' 'The course has personalised my faith and opened it up in a different direction.' 'The first night I found quite life changing - I allowed God's love into my life!'

This year we embarked on Emmaus held on four Thursday nights during Lent. This time only Michael, Nerolie Murray and I had done the course. We wanted the others to have the complete Emmaus experience so they were not involved in the presentations but helped lead groups. We had 32 participants - 15 of those having done the previous New Life course. On the whole we found it easier the second time around!

Comments:

- \* 'I enjoyed the course being given by lay people who obviously love the Bible and enjoy sharing this knowledge and love with others.'
- \* 'The Word of God is alive as never before!'
- \* 'Developed an appreciation of the Bible as the Word of God and an interest in the Old Testament.'
- \* 'Loved the beautiful Mass.'

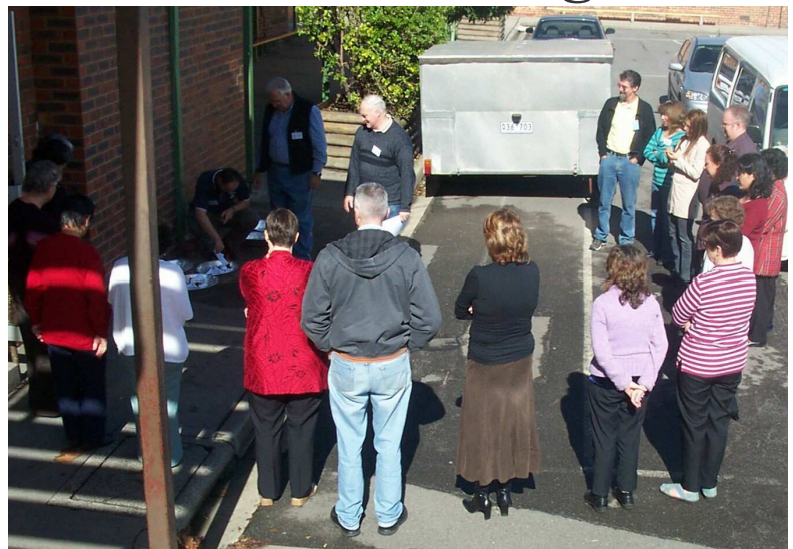
Throughout this development, we have been wonderfully supported by our priests. Fr Mariusz attended every session of each of the courses, helped with the groups and ended each evening with a beautiful prayer and the Lord's blessing. The Pymble SOE is now preparing for the 'Formation of Disciples' course. We are enjoying the challenge and holding steadfastly to the belief that with God all things are possible!

## New Life Course Held In Traralgon

The New Life course held in Traralgon on the 28th-29th April was enjoyed by seventeen participants.

The first one held in the parish, it challenged participants to make a radical step of conversion as they burnt their boats on their past life. After being refilled with the power of the Holy Spirit they were further challenged to share the good news message with one person in the next week. The parish priest Fr. Peter Bickley further encouraged them as he presented them with their certificates at the completion of the course.

Cathy McLure



Participants burning their boats during the New Life course



# New Life at St. Mary's, Parramatta Diocese.

By Eddie Grasso



SOE team and graduates of the New Life course at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St. Mary's

The Sydney Catholic School of Evangelisation ventured in new grounds. On Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007, and every Friday for the next six consecutive weeks, we presented the 'New Life' course as a Lenten program at our Parish, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Mary's.

Fr. Bob Bossini SDB, our parish priest was so enthusiastic that he accepted the invitation to give three teachings. That was not all; he also suggested we present this program both in the morning and the evening. We accepted this proposition and the Lord blessed us with seventy three participants for both sessions.

The New Life course as a Lenten Program was quite a success. Many participants commented that this was the best Lenten period they encountered as

a preparation for the Good Friday/Easter celebrations. They felt a spiritual uplifting by the method of teaching, dynamics and hands-on participation which they experienced for the first time. As a follow up we are invited to present Emmaus on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2007.

We thank Fr. Bob for his participation, encouragement and graciousness which were a great blessing for us not only for the past New Life Lenten Program but for all future courses to be presented in the implementation of the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program at St Marys. We thank most of all God for the opportunities he gives us to proclaim the 'Good News' of the Gospel. Jesus told us in Mt 9: 37-38: 'The harvest is good but labourers are scarce. Beg the harvest master to send out labourers to gather his harvest.'

## SOLDIERS FOR GOD — GIDEON'S ARMY

The work of the School of Evangelisation continues to expand thanks to the Holy Spirit. Thanks also to those people who support the School in numerous ways including financial support. During Lent we reflected on the three keys supports to spiritual growth; prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Without neglecting the other two I want to appeal now to your call to almsgiving. Seriously consider the financial needs of the School and make a decision to join, or renew your membership of Gideon's Army. WE NEED 300 Gideon's soldiers to support us with \$100 per year.

We have recently become an incorporated body; we have established our own website, which



is rapidly taking shape; we have updated and reprinted our information brochure; we are expanding the readership of the Witness with every issue; and we have seen since the last issue of Witness three more Victorian parishes come on board with the Parish Evangelisation & Formation Program.

All these things cost money and we rely on our own Gideon's Army to keep the School moving forward towards our vision of every Catholic parish as an evangelising Parish.

If you would like to support Gideon's Army  
**please make cheques payable to  
 Schools of Evangelisation,**  
 and send to: P.O. Box 168, Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995  
 Enquiries: Jacinta Gunn, ph. (03) 5998 7859

# My Thoughts About Joining The Missionaries of God's Love.

By Michael O'Kelly

Jesus has blessed me greatly in my life, allowing me to be born into my loving family. I am one of six children, five boys and then came my beautiful sister Gabrielle.

My name is Michael O'Kelly from Bairnsdale, Victoria, but I now live in Canberra as I have joined the Missionaries of God's Love, which is a Charismatic Order of priests, brothers and nuns started by Father Ken Barker in 1985 in Canberra. I'm here in Canberra for two years then I'll come back to Melbourne to do a Theology degree. Then after I have done my studies, I will do a year of Mission and I may go to Manila in the Philippines, Darwin or Canberra. Then back to Melbourne for another year after which I will become a deacon and then another year in Canberra before being ordained a priest. Wow what a journey!

I have been here now for two and a half weeks and my life is slowly changing. Like Dad, when he's out on the boat, he can sense the wind is picking up so he wants to turn the rudder so it will steep the boat toward the wind. That wind for me is the Holy Spirit.

The other brothers here are going to turn into my family (spiritual family) and will become just as important as my O'Kelly family. I say this because we live with each other, we pray, we eat, we exercise and we have class together. The love of the brothers is amazing. It's because we grab that love from Our Lord, through being focussed on him. Jesus is number one. He shines his love into our hearts. The brotherhood is terrific and if you want to go for a walk, one of the brothers will go with you, you only need ask. You meet brothers from over all the world. This year we will have brothers from Cameroon, India, PNG, the Phillipines, Indonesia and maybe Nigeria. I'm the only Australian this year. The love of Jesus allows us to be brothers.

It's going to be hard work, as Father Ken tells us, always trying to save souls. So many people have helped me to reach this far, which will continue to happen as the courage and love of people has shown me. This move has being a blessing and a daunting experience at the same time.

I will be able to work through, with Jesus, the



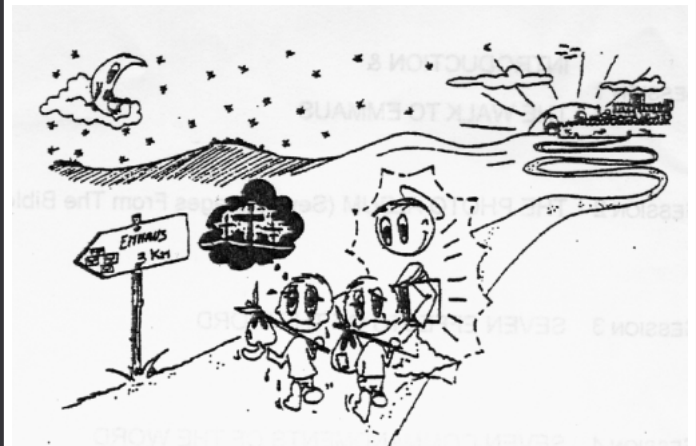
Above: Mick O'Kelly (right) with his Dad, Bernard, at a SOE Course last year.

many struggles I have and they will become goals for me to serve God in.

Jesus is awesome and I need to continue to keep my focus on Him. Thank you Jesus.

N.B. Michael is one of the graduates of the School of Evangelisation and we are so delighted to see him take this major step. What a wonderful selfless giving of himself for the work of evangelisation. Please keep him in your prayers.

## Come on a heart warming Journey with Jesus!



The Sale diocese S.O.E. will conduct

### 'EMMAUS'

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
at  
Iona Parish Hall.

This is a wonderful journey through the Scriptures with Jesus. Loosely based around the journey to Emmaus story it is an opportunity for inner healing and for developing a love for the Word of God. A highpoint is the synagogue experience where all the Old Testament characters are represented. Why not come along and enjoy this relaxing weekend away in the open countryside of Iona.

- \* Iona is just 10 minutes from the Princes Freeway, 20 mins. from Pakenham with the turn off close to Gumbuya Park at Tynong.
- \* Billeting and transport will be available where needed.

Enquiries:  
Phone Cathy on 51743001 or Pat on 56722772



# LONG DISTANCE EVANGELISATION

By Pat Kelly

Pope John Paul called for new methods of evangelisation but one of our graduates has ignored this call and adopted one of the oldest methods of evangelisation...the humble letter. Still I don't think he can be criticised, after all St Paul found the letter a pretty useful tool. Our graduate, John, was led by the Lord in a dream to reach out to the people of Japan. In obedience to this inspiration he gathered a number of pen friends in Japan and through correspondence developed a relationship with these people so as to share the faith. I'll now quote from a letter I received.

"To evangelise people in some distant land, has called for inspiration. I used Paul to inspire me with this task. With some of the letters I have written I have found that in my desire to preach to my newfound friends in Japan I have written word of greeting in similar fashion to the words of Paul. I have found also that Mary and praying the rosary is one of the top prayers amongst our Japanese brothers and sisters.

The thing that has inspired me most in this mission is that those who are not even Christians have begun to go to church. I have found that in Japan they have little time to socialise. This was a problem, however I suggested that they could meet after church for a coffee and there discuss how Jesus has changed their lives.

The greatest effect this has had on me is that I have had to study the Word and put it into a letter in a very simple way to get across the message of Jesus. I have at times drawn upon their culture to show examples of the Word at work in their every day lives.

For example in the preparation for the fertility festival they will clean their homes so that no evil spirits can enter the dwelling. I compare this to the teaching of Jesus that when we sweep the home clean the evil spirits can return and bring others with them. I have explained to them that the house is the body and the evil is sin and that we need the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in us. Where the Holy Spirit is no evil can exist.

I have tried to be non critical of the culture and native faith but have always tried to draw a picture and a path towards Jesus."

## You are invited to join the SOE e- group ... By Elmer Guerra

Dear Brothers and sisters,

This service on the internet is FREE and can be used by our organization to have one place of contact on the Internet.

The service would allow us to:

Send messages to all the members at once... you do not have to type more email addresses.. only member would receive the information.

The area designed for the SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION is PRIVATE, meaning that only member previously invited to join can be able to access our information on the net.

Pictures of the SOE can be easily uploaded to the side so everyone (MEMBERS ONLY), would be able to see the different pictures from other members...

Files and important information can be pass it more efficiently... e.g. Gideon newsletters, The Witness etc.... - once the file is uploaded to the internet remain there until the owner of the site and or the moderator decides to clear it.

This will allowed each member to access the SOE group site from any country of the world and speak about "The Witness" which would be able to accessible on the spot.

You do not have to be a YAHOO member to join... you still using your own email address.

ONCE AGAIN ONLY MEMBER CAN ACCESS THIS SITE SO PLEASE JOIN:

[elmerguerra@yahoo.com](mailto:elmerguerra@yahoo.com) has invited you to join the Schoolofevangelisation group!

Subscribe to schoolofevangelisation

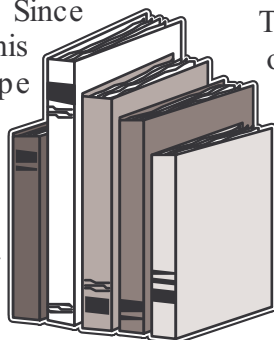


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*In Happy moments, praise God  
In Difficult moments, seek God  
In Quiet moments, worship God  
In Painful moments, trust God  
In Good moments, thank God*

## CATHOLIC EVANGELISATION AND FORMATION RESOURCES

In 2000 Victor Claveau came from the United States to attend the Formation of Disciples and Formation of Evangelisers courses at Maryknoll in Gippsland. Victor had a Catholic bookshop in California and was very active in evangelisation and the promotion of Catholic teaching. Since he returned to the US he has continued this work and has recently established the Pope John Paul II Society. Below is an article Victor sent explaining the work of the Society. People might find the resources on offer very helpful for themselves personally and as an aid in the work of evangelisation.



“The Pope John Paul II Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to offering evangelization materials either free or at the lowest possible cost. At the present time the Society offers more than 250 free pamphlets available by computer download from [http://www.pjpiisoe.org/Resources\\_Pamphlets.html](http://www.pjpiisoe.org/Resources_Pamphlets.html). The pamphlets cover a wide variety of subjects and all are in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The pamphlets can be used for self-education, religious education instruction, and evangelization. They can also be distributed in public places such as shopping centers, professional offices, etc.

The first pamphlet rack was placed on a small church in California and the response from the parishioners was overwhelming as 6,500 pamphlets were distributed in the first six weeks.

The Society is continually adding to the number of pamphlets and will research and publish pamphlets on request. Recently, a Caribbean

bishop requested pamphlets specifically focusing on Seventh-Day Adventism and the “Sabbath question”. There are now a dozen pamphlets available on these topics. Pamphlet racks with the Society’s logo are also available for purchase.

The Society will soon be offering a number of lectures on CD by leading Catholic speakers for 80 cents each. Although the lectures are copyright, they will have no duplication restrictions. Once purchased, you are free to duplicate and distribute these lectures.

Membership in the Society is free and simple; the only requirement is signing a pledge of loyalty to the Church and the Holy Father. Members will also receive, by E-mail, the monthly newsletter, which not only educates, but also will keep members updated.

Weekly homilies are available, from Father Cletus Imo, a gifted Nigerian priest, on Thursdays, which focus on the coming Sunday’s readings. These homilies can help, both priests and lay-people, to prepare for Sunday Mass.

Future goals are to establish chapters of the Society throughout the world. God willing, the Society’s materials will be translated into the major world languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, Tagalog, and Arabic.

In Corde Matris,

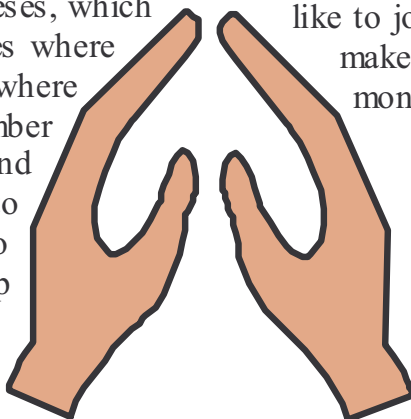
Victor R. Claveau, M.J.

Visit us at: <http://www.pjpiisoe.org/> and [www.evangelizationstation.com](http://www.evangelizationstation.com)  
[claveau@earthlink.net](mailto:claveau@earthlink.net)

### LET US PRAY:

In 1 Chronicles 4:10 Jabez prays for more land. We too want to ask God to extend the boundaries of the School. At the moment the School has a presence in ten dioceses, which means there are eighteen dioceses where no courses have been held or where they haven’t been held for a number of years. Why not be like Jabez and ask God to bless us abundantly, to extend the reach of the School, to let his hand be upon us and keep us from evil.

Pray that the School will be established, or re-established in



### e-prayers needed.

one new diocese before the next Witness in August. What about your diocese?

Everyone can pray but some people might like to join our regular e-prayers team and make a commitment to pray one day a month for the needs of the School.

To join email me on:  
[pakell@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pakell@bigpond.net.au)  
and I will send you more information.

Pat Kelly

## SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2007

| DATE                                    | COURSE                             | LOCATION             | CONTACT              |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| May 19 <sup>th</sup> —20 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Em maus</b>                     | St. Mary's, N.S.W.   | Lucy 02 9670 4440    |
| May 26 <sup>th</sup> —27 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Em maus</b>                     | Iona, Vic.           | Cathy 03 5174 3001   |
| June 2 <sup>nd</sup> —3 <sup>rd</sup>   | <b>Em maus</b>                     | Wallsend, NSW        | Lucy 02 9670 4440    |
| June 23 <sup>rd</sup> —24 <sup>th</sup> | <b>New Life (Youth)</b>            | Mill Park, Vic.      | Trish 03 9436 1834   |
| June 23 <sup>rd</sup> —24 <sup>th</sup> | <b>New Life</b>                    | St. John's Park, NSW | Lucy 02 9670 4440    |
| July 14 <sup>th</sup> —15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Share Your Faith</b>            | Nerang, Qld.         | Elmer 07 3345 8430   |
| July 21 <sup>st</sup> —2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>New Life</b>                    | Baysw ater           | Adrian 03 9337 2051  |
| July 28 <sup>th</sup> —29 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Em maus</b>                     | Traralgon, Vic.      | Cathy 03 5174 3001   |
| August 4 <sup>th</sup> —5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>New Life</b>                    | Keilor Dow ns, Vic   | Adrian 03 9337 2051  |
| Aug—Sept.                               | <b>Formation of Disciples</b>      | Pymble, NSW          | Jill 02 9449 8098    |
| August                                  | <b>Formation of Evangelisers</b>   | Mill Park, Vic       | Trish 03 9436 1834   |
| Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup> —2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>Formation of Disciples</b>      | Nerang, Qld.         | Elmer 07 3345 8430   |
| Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> —9 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Formation in Cath. Teaching</b> | Wagga, NSW           | Kay 02 6933 1444     |
| Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> —21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Formation of Disciples</b>      | Gladstone, Qld.      | Colleen 07 4972 3409 |
| Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> —11 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Mary</b>                        | Cowwarr, Vic.        | Cathy 03 5174 3001   |

### *PILGRIMAGES*

“Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer in Church.” CC 2691

#### *Divine Mercy:*

Visit the shrines of The Divine Mercy & Black Madonna in Poland and the Infant Jesus in Prague.

Also Lourdes; Medjugorge; Loretto; Padua; Assisi and Turin.

September 8<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2007

Further information 03 5941 4794

#### *Internation al Congress of New Evangelisation:*

BUDAPEST 2007. Visit the shrines of The Divine Mercy & the Black Madonna in Poland. Travel through Slovakia to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the New Evangelisation in Budapest, Hungary.

September 11<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2007

Further information 02 9390 5460



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**The greatest asset ..... Faith**

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**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**Brisbane Queensland**  
***"Come Holy Spirit Let the Fire Fall"***

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- Fr Richard McAlear OMI
- Alan Panozza CCR President
- Bishop Joe Grech
- Shayne Bennett Emmanuel Community

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