



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Phil 4:13

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Newsletter
August 2010

Parishes on Fire Conference

St Clement of Rome Parish Centre Bulleen 8th-10th October 2010

The aim of the Parishes on Fire! Conference is to promote through teaching and evangelisation, different means of renewing local parishes. During the weekend of 8th-10th October, 2010 the parish of St Clement of Rome in Bulleen, Vic, will experience proclamation of the Kerygma, the Charisms of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the fellowship of Community. Fr Wahid Riad will be our enthusiastic host. Everyone is welcome to attend – both from the parishes nearby and from far away.

The Kerygma will be proclaimed through the teachings of Bishop Julian Porteous, and through home visits by participants of the conference. Bishop Julian, an experienced evangeliser, will

also give a valuable workshop on evangelisation, a topic he is passionate about.

The Charisms will be experienced through the celebration of the Healing Mass with Fr Michael Shadbolt, who is known for the use of words of knowledge. The Community aspect will be presented by our speaker from Italy, Anselmo Ruspicioni, addressing the importance of sharing life in community. He will also give an afternoon workshop. Loving community will also be experienced in the various lunches for women, for seniors and for the Italian community, as well as a men's breakfast, and the *Fired Up!* Youth mass and pizza night to follow. Our keynote speakers will

give short talks to the people attending the lunches.

Our aim and prayer is to gather at least 100 people to attend the conference and many more to share in the lunches. Friday and Saturday will commence at 9.30 am with Songs of Praise, followed by a keynote address. Mass will come after morning tea, and will be followed by lunch. In the afternoon there will be evangelising workshops followed by parishioner visits. On Sunday the day will begin with 11 am Mass for the Italian Community, followed by lunch for Italian people, and a workshop in the afternoon. At 5.30 pm a *Fired Up!* Youth Mass will be followed by a Pizza meal and special event for young people.

Book Now!

Don't miss the chance to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to become a more effective evangeliser and to enjoy the company of other disciples on fire with love for Jesus - Come to the PARISHES ON FIRE CONFERENCE!



Above: The group of seminarians who took part in the Evangelisation Intensive course with some of the presenters. See page 6 for full report..

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 web page:*

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.

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.

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:

- ▶ FORM DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAIN EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISH PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS.

SET YOUR SIGHT ON THE GOAL

Recently on one of my motorcycle trips I broke down miles from anywhere in the middle of the night. I knew there was a petrol station somewhere ahead so I decided to push the bike there, I uttered the famous last words, "It can't be too far?" So I set off in the rain (Yes it had just started to pour) on what was to be an epic journey.

The first three hours were the worst as I could not see my objective and I was struggling on in complete darkness. The last few hours were much better as I could actually see the lights of the roadhouse SLOWLY getting closer. It was much easier when my objective was clear.

Then when I was within a kilometre of the servo another set of lights further in the distance, came into view. My heart sank. Had I mistaken my objective? Would I have to completely change my focus? Thank God the answer was no as the first set of lights gradually transformed into a petrol station and I was soon on my way.

As usual this adventure taught me a few things (other than the need for a more reliable bike). How much easier it was when my objective was clearly visible and how important it was to be clear in where my objective actually was. In other words **HAVE A CLEAR OBJECTIVE AND HAVE IT CLEARLY BEFORE YOU.**

The objective of the Catholic School of Evangelisation is threefold:

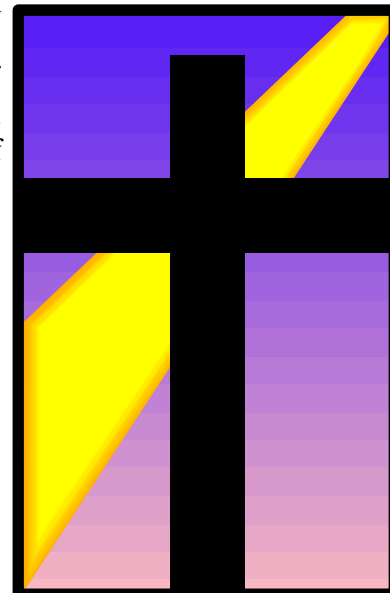
- ◆ To Evangelise
- ◆ To train Evangelisers
- ◆ To train trainers of Evangelisers.

If an activity of the School does not fall under one of these headings we should not be doing it.

What is your objective? Where does evangelisation fit in? How do you evangelise? Do you evangelise? If evangelisation is not part of your life or the life of your parish or prayer group are you prepared to change focus?

"And Jesus said to them, 'Come follow me and I WILL MAKE you fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed Him."

Mt 4:19-20



At The RIGHT HAND of THE FATHER

By Bishop Joe Grech



Crises are our bread and butter as a church. We had our beginning in the midst of a very big crisis. The Last Supper was a time of great anxiety. Jesus knew that one of his own very close associates was going to betray him. He was also very aware that the one whom he designated to be the leader would soon get so confused and disoriented that he would deny him three times. Jesus was also conscious that he was going to experience a terrible time at the hands of the Romans and that this would lead to a death that was reserved for criminals. Indeed it was a time of crisis. How did Jesus handle all this?

As I read the account of the last supper I do not find Jesus getting into a huddle with the twelve trying to devise a point by point plan how they were going to face this situation. All he left them was his presence. *“Do this in memory of me”*. Remember what I did. Remember what I said. Meet together around the table of the Eucharist and meditate on my presence among you.

This is pretty similar to what the early Christian communities came up with as they faced terrible rejection and persecution. We are all aware of how much our early Christian brothers and sisters suffered. We have read about how many were martyred in the Colosseum, either crucified or eaten and mauled by wild beasts. They went through all of that because of the same belief that you and I have today. Yet at first they said, “Well we can put up with this. Let us be patient and endure all of this. It will soon pass because Jesus is going to come back very soon and he will fix up everything.” But He did not. It was only because of this realisation that they started to write down their

experiences of being with Jesus. This is how the New Testament came to be written. The New Testament is not merely a series of stories about Jesus, but recounts the very presence of Jesus as experienced by the early church and which to us is also an embodiment of Jesus Christ who is alive. No wonder that Vatican II taught us that in the scripture we have another very powerful presence of Jesus Christ. This is how the early church faced its own crises.

Now what about us today? How are we going to face our crises that from time to time test us because we are human beings? Have you ever wondered what Jesus is doing now in heaven? I have often asked this question. Yes it is true he promised to be with us till the end of time. But in reality what does all of this mean? How is He being with us at this very precise moment so that He can be of help to us?

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says this *“It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf”*. (Heb 9-24) Early on in the same letter we find these words *“It follows then, that his power to save those who come to God through Him is absolute, since he lives forever to intercede for them”* (Heb 7-25). So Jesus is acting on our behalf and interceding for us at this moment. In plain English what Jesus is doing at the present time is praying for you and for me so that we can continue His mission and His work. How can we fail? We have been guaranteed the victory even though at times we become so discouraged and so

despondent. We need to develop a victorious mentality which says that no matter what I need to face and own, I will not be crushed because Jesus Christ is alive in me and at this very moment He is praying for me. So I will persevere knowing that it is not I who is living at the moment, but that it is Jesus Christ living in me (Gal 2:20). This is what kept Paul going and this is how you and I continue to be enabled and empowered to continue to be faithful to our responsibilities.

We all have difficulties to face. We all, from time to time are immersed in situations that can be difficult and which suck out from us all our energy and leave us listless and dazed. As people who believe in Jesus Christ when we have our own crises, there are three things that we can do.

Number 1. Let us face situations squarely so that we can work towards the truth, for what is just and right, and for what needs to be righted. This is also the fruit of prayer. It is from taking time to reflect, meditate and be present with our God that our hearts can develop the right openness and attitudes to enable us to desire to make such a decision.

Number 2. We do the best that we can to look at the situation from different aspects and to try to grasp what is really taking place and what is at stake. So we need to seek advice, to talk to people who are mature and who have been through similar situations. We also need to seek professional help at times.

Number 3. Let us proceed with confidence to make the decisions which need to be made knowing full well that Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord is at this very moment praying for you and for me.



OUR HOPE IS ETERNAL LIFE

... By Bridget O'Keefe

Tim and I were grateful and excited when we found out we were having a little baby to play with our son Paddy. At the 20 week ultrasound we found out our second child had a complex heart condition and could die before he or she was born.

We knew all we could do was pray and give our baby every chance at life. Tim and I named our unborn girl Mary Kathleen and decided we wouldn't grieve unless we had to. Instead we tried to be thankful for each day she was with us. People all around us began to pray for Mary and for our family.

Mary was born a month early, weighing 2.5 kg and was taken to the Special Care Nursery immediately and I didn't see her until she was 4 hours old. It was an awful night; I was scared that she would not live until morning. One of the midwives baptised Mary during the night without any of our family present.

At four days of age, Mary was transferred to the Royal Children's Hospital and had her first open heart surgery the following day. Initially we expected to have five to fourteen days recovery time before we could be home. As more was discovered about her heart and small right lung, we were told we would stay at the hospital until the next heart surgery.

Tim attempted to work, care for Paddy and visit Mary and me in Melbourne. We could not have coped without the help of our families and friends. This experience opened our eyes to the world of 'hospital families'. Prior to this, we had no idea that anybody stayed at hospital for months and months. There were many parents, children, nurses, doctors and others within the

hospital we depended on during this time.

Unfortunately Mary's second heart surgery at three months was unsuccessful. After a few more months in hospital, the surgeon said we could take Mary home as long as we realised that she wasn't better. If she survived those following months she would need



more surgery.

Mary came home for four beautiful months. Together we celebrated Paddy's third birthday, re-affirmation of Mary's baptism and Christmas. We went to the beach, visited friends, joined mother's group and enjoyed the support and company of family, parish and community.

The third heart surgery in January came around quickly and we hoped that now Mary was bigger and stronger and would recover more quickly. However, her heart was weaker after this operation and she became very sick. After seven weeks in the Intensive Care Unit Mary's little body was so sick, she couldn't get better. When she died Mary was in my arms with her family around her. There was no struggle and we really believe Mary was at last peaceful and free from her body.

Mary's life here was short but we were grateful that we had heard her voice, seen her smile, and

delighted in her growth and her determined personality. We don't know what the purpose of Mary's life was. If it was to make us appreciate each day with people we love, Mary served that purpose. When we left the Children's Hospital after Mary's death, I realised that we were leaving one community behind but returning to another community made up of the people in this church. Before we were given the gift of a sick daughter, Tim and I were only vaguely aware that this community existed.

Mary had as much love in her short life as many do in 80 or 100 years. We miss Mary so much but deeply believe she is in Heaven. There she has even more love than we can give her. A sick heart or lungs no longer restrain Mary. Now she is free to live and pray that one day our family will be together again. Mary's suffering is over and she will always be the happy, innocent child we knew. We ask that she be remembered only with joy and love. Please don't let Mary's life be remembered with anger, a sense of injustice or sadness that she no longer exists. Thank you for loving us and Mary and thank you God for letting us meet this beautiful girl.

I will paraphrase C.S. Lewis, author of the Narnia stories, to try to explain how we feel about Mary's new life.

"... we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

Parishes on Fire Conference — 8th-10th October 2010

Guest Speakers

St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen, will be the setting of the third annual evangelisation conference sponsored by the Catholic School of Evangelisation. Previous successful conferences have been held in Mill Park (2008) and Bennettswood (2009). The focus of the 8th-10th October 2010 Conference will be on the three key points of the School: Kerygma – Charisma – Community. Each day will be devoted to one of these points, with keynote speakers addressing each topic. They will be Bishop Julian Porteous, Fr Michael Shadbolt and Anselmo Ruspicioni. A number of evangelisation activities are also planned, with the collaboration of Parish Priest Fr Wahid Riad.



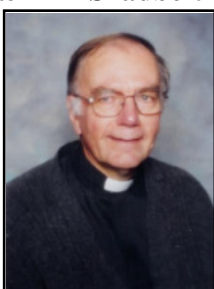
Most Rev. Julian Porteous is Auxiliary bishop to Cardinal Pell in Sydney. He is the Episcopal Vicar for Renewal and

Evangelisation, and heads the CREDO office. Born in Sydney 1949 Bishop Porteous is the eldest of five children. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Sydney 1974, Bishop Porteous served as Assistant Priest in five parishes. In 1996 he was appointed

Administrator of the Parish of Annandale and then Parish Priest of Dulwich Hill in 1999. Bishop Porteous has been actively involved in evangelisation and in the development of ecclesial movements in Australia. Through his involvement with these communities he has worked in the formation of young people for consecrated life. Bishop Porteous was appointed Rector of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Sydney in January 2002, a position he has recently surrendered. He is the bishop most involved in actual evangelisation initiatives in Australia, including the annual week-long evangelisation congress SCENE. (See article page 10) Bishop Porteous will address the conference on the importance and methods of proclaiming the Kerygma on Friday 8th October.

Fr. Michael Shadbolt

volunteered to do Missionary work in Venezuela at the request of Cardinal Knox of Melbourne in the early 1970's. While there, he was 'evangelised'



by a Pentecostal pastor, and experienced a personal Pentecost which transformed his ministry to the local people with surprising results. On return to Australia he

was appointed assistant priest to various parishes, including Hampton Park, where he celebrated widely attended healing masses. He was appointed Parish Priest of Doveton in 1999, and is noted for his healing ministry. Fr Shadbolt will teach on the Charisms, and celebrate a Healing Mass on Saturday 9th October.

Anselmo Ruspicioni will be the third speaker, coming from Italy. Member and leader in the Koinonia John the Baptist, Anselmo (44yrs old), was born Luxemburg



of Italian parents. He is married with five children. He works full time for the Koinonia supporting KJB groups in Germany and as a translator, speaking Italian, German, Luxemburgs, English, French and Spanish. He has a special relationship with migrant communities. Anselmo's focus in his testimony is the importance of a community of friends to support our spiritual and human growth and our work of evangelisation. The House of Prayer (HOPE) is one way people can experience life as part of an evangelising community. He will speak on Community on Sunday 10th October.

Adrian Commadeur

PARISHES ON FIRE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly.

Surname:

First Name:

Address:

.....

State..... Postcode

Ph: Email:

Registration Costs

Full Registration	\$ 60.00
Donation for meals provided	\$.00
Billeting (if required) ___ per night	\$.00
Total amount enclosed	\$

Note: Registration closes 30/9/10.

Cheques payable to: **Catholic School of Evangelisation**
Mail to: Conference Secretariat, 15 Holly Green Crt,
East Keilor, Vic 3033

Enquiries: St Clement's Parish Office 03 98503262
or Adrian Ph/fax: 93372051,
email: acommade@bigpond.net.au

Please circle your preference below:

Home visit / Creative evening / Intercession

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS see reverse side.

Evangelisation Intensive: Corpus Christi College, Carlton

By Adrian Commadeur

In July this year at the request of Fr Brendan Lane, Rector of Corpus Christi Seminary, the CSOE conducted an Evangelisation Intensive for a group of year 2-4 students. In total nineteen student completed the course, some of whom were overseas students born in Vietnam or the Phillipines.

Nan Deakin and Adrian Commadeur attended each day of the course. Other presenters on individual days were Pat Kelly, Ron Joseph, Tony Grieve and John Duiker. Maria Feleppa added support on the last day providing delicacies at the final dinner.

The first four days were devoted to the formation of disciples, using most of the discipleship talks and dynamics. The aim was to give the students an opportunity to deepen their relationship with God, though dynamics that would lead them to surrender more fully to the Lord. The second part focussed on formation of evangelisers, with presentations and dynamics illustrating the Kerygma of Jesus, of the Apostles and the Kerygma for Today. Bishop Joe Grech delivered two great presentations on the last day greatly lifting the spirit of the participants before they went out to evangelise.

On the last two days, actual evangelisation took place, first in the Carlton vicinity and in the



Above photo shows participants sowing seeds representing those they visited.

grounds of the Melbourne University, not far from the College. On the final day of the course, the students visited the homes of attendees of the Catechetical Preparation classes for Confirmation in Keilor Downs. Both these outreaches resulted in some negative and some positive experiences for most seminarians. In Keilor Downs about 30 to 40 homes were visited over a two hour period by ten teams of two students.

The college under the Rector, gave the team great hospitality. The team enjoyed the mealtimes, sharing with the students, and were

especially appreciative of the final dinner, which was intended to welcome back the evangelisers from their trip to Keilor Downs.

As part of forward planning the students were asked to contribute to a Virtual Evangelistic Concert, i.e. to suggest ideas for a possible evangelistic concert to take place in the future. It was suggested that these items could be presented at a Fund Raising Night at the end of August. Evangelisation at Melbourne Uni Campus would also seem to be an ideal follow up on the course, allowing the students to speak to other young students at Uni. It could be undertaken as a monthly outreach activity. Also it was suggested to make the Mass in the Seminary Church of the Sacred Heart more evangelising.

We thank the Lord Jesus for the opportunity to share our experiences of discipleship and evangelisation with Corpus Christi Seminarians. We pray that the Holy Spirit has put a new flame of love for Jesus, and new zeal, skill and motivation to approach their ministry with an Evangelising Mentality. We also thank Mary the Mother of Jesus and Star of Evangelisation for her motherly intercession. Our appreciation goes to Fr Brendan Lane for his kind invitation and for the staff and students and chef for their acceptance of the Melbourne School of Evangelisation.

PARISHES ON FIRE CONFERENCE, 8th—10th October 2010

Credit Card Payment

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Expiry date:/..... Date:

Date	Receipt no	Amount	
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Signed:

PERSONAL PRAYER COURSE

St Brendan's Parish Lakes Entrance

... by Joan E Micah

The Personal Prayer Course "*The Power of Prayer*" held on 21st & 22nd May was both a prayful event, an emotional experience for some and a learning experience for others that attended. This course conducted by the Diocese of Sale Evangelisation team was attended by nineteen St Brendan's parishioners as well as our musicians who added depth to the course content. Some of those who only planned on attending on the Friday night, rearranged their schedules and came back again on Saturday. A testament to what we were hearing and reading. While the style of prayer taught may not appeal to everyone, it certainly offered something different and thought provoking. We also learnt one of the many ways to read the scriptures and how to get into the good habit of reading them in order to get the most out of the Word.

Time was spent in group discussion and in group reading of the Scriptures. We also had time alone to read and ponder the Word.



Our challenge now is to put into practice what we learnt, share our knowledge with five others and personally assist one other if we are able. The Holy Spirit works through all through the power of prayer!

We would like to thank those who attended, those who provided food, those who billeted the three members of the Evangelisation team and those musicians who added their considerable talents to the event.

We thank Fr Brendan for allowing this course to be held in the Parish and for supporting it

both financially and in person. The course organisers, who travelled many hours, were delighted with our hospitality, our input and are looking forward to the opportunity to make a return visit to our Parish. All they need now is an invitation! Will you be the one to issue the invitation?

From a personal point of view, I find that I am more inclined now to pick up my bible on a more regular basis and one day aspire to the daily reading of it. Whilst I prefer to read "daily inspirational prayer" type readings, I've found that by reading through St Luke at home the same time as we are reading it on Sundays, the words have certainly become more meaningful.

Some of those who attended are now getting more involved with the hymns on Sundays by joining in and clapping along as we praise God through music and words.

So thank you to our Evangelisation Team for having the courage to stand up and say "yes" when you were called. May your rewards be heavenly.

Good News Course at St Clement of Rome – Bulleen

By Adrian Commadeur

Some fifteen to eighteen people attended the Good News course, held over the Friday evening and Saturday of 30th—31st July 2010. Most, if not all, attendees were parishioners. Fr Wahid Riad, Parish Priest of St Clement's, invited the School to present the course and encouraged everyone to attend. He himself attended all possible sessions, leading by example. Later he said he enjoined the course. Presenters included Nan Deakin, Jacinta Gunn, and Adrian Commadeur.

The main aim of the course is to explain the six points of the Kerygma for Today, and frequent repetition of the six steps enabled most people to remember them. Each of the speakers was able to

share from their own life stories and experiences, and this made the course more accessible to the participants. Opportunity was given for them to share the Kerygma with others, as well as preparing a testimony. Italo was used as an example for preparing a testimony.

Italo Rigoni came to Australia as a young person. In Italy he was used to attending mass and living a good family and parish life. After arriving in Australia, he lost contact with the faith, and did not have good community support.

After a while he began to feel unhappy with his life. He felt the need in his heart to return to Mass and be part of a community

worshipping God. He finally decided to go faithfully to Sunday Mass.

He met and married Nerina and together they have been happy with God and with their family. They have been serving the Lord and have also been part of the Italian community in the parish of St Clement's.

Italo and Nerina would love all those who have lost touch with God, and have left the practice of their faith to know that God still loves them. He calls them back to himself, to worship at Sunday Mass and be part of the parish community. They can have the same joy that they have in being faithful to God, who is faithful to them.

A Reflection on Jesus in the 4 Gospels St Agatha's Cranbourne, 28th – 30th May 2010

. . . By Regina Abraham

What a wonderful opportunity this was for those who love study of the Scriptures and have a thirst for this knowledge!!!

My family and I have the privilege of being part of St Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne, (the place to be in Victoria) where a lot is always happening!!! We (all four members of our family) attended the course with the intention of attending only a day and a half of the course, but we ended up staying for every minute of it. This was despite our kids having exams at University and VCE levels. In fact, the course has stimulated our appetites so much that we are longing for the next one to come along soon!

The course was presented by the School of Evangelisation, with talks given by Nan Deakin, Adrian Commadeur and Patrick Kelly. It was informative for all of us who attended and answered a lot of questions for both my teenage children! (This is the first time I have seen my kids focussed, pay full attention and also participate wholeheartedly) The format of the course was excellent, looking at the four Evangelists, with a perspective on, the Man, the Method (each Evangelist used) and the Message (each Evangelist's portrayal of Jesus) The course also had a lot of dynamics, dramatizing the healings of Jesus, interviews with the Evangelists and question and answer time. We also could see some actual humour in the Gospels.

For our family, there was new dimension of looking at Jesus through the eyes of the Evangelists. This was because the history, the language and the culture of the times of Jesus were reflected in this course. This is a very important aspect of studying the Scriptures, as from my own personal experience as a preacher, I know that people tend to interpret the scriptures through their own knowledge!

The highlight of the course for me, in between getting into the times and mind of Jesus and His companions, was the praying with the Cross that contained the Relics of several Saints and a fragment of the actual Cross of Christ! This was given to Adrian Commadeur by a priest. It was such a moving experience for all of us in our family and also for all who were present at the time!



Above: Rose Trevison & Beth Fivaz enjoying a dynamic.

I would recommend this course to all those who are seeking a deeper knowledge of the Gospels. I would also recommend Patrick Kelly and team as spirit filled preachers! Commendations to John Duiker and team who organised this course, we hope and pray for many more within our Parish!!!



Above: Participant prepares to be "carried" by the Word of God - four burly evangelists.

Jesus in the 4 Gospels

. . . By Ted Rees

St Agatha's Cranbourne, Jesus in the Four Gospels was for me a most worthwhile experience. I came away with a more comprehensive understanding of the Four Gospel writers. Also handouts were given to all summarizing the two and a bit days course; which will be useful for follow up research. I think this course, along with others, from time to time, help keep souls treading along the right road. All the people talking (running the course) were knowledgeable, well spoken and importantly (I think) ran on time. There was time to discuss (say) Mark the person, then, move on to Mark's message, Mark's method etc. etc. So very full-on; by the end I was totally exhausted but glad that I came along.

EVANGELISATION TIPS

- ▶ Dedicate a little more time to prayer so you have more to give to others.
- ▶ Share a smile with a stranger on the bus, in the play ground or in the workplace.
- ▶ Pass on to a friend a book, CD, DVD or web link about the Catholic faith.
- ▶ Carry out an act of service to someone in need

Teacher Training Course Presented to the 'El Shaddai' Community



The Filipinos 'El Shaddai' Community requested the Catholic School of Evangelisation, Sydney, to conduct the Teacher Training Seminar for the members. The seminar took place on the evening of Friday, 30th July and all day Saturday, 1st August, 2010. The presenters were Lucy and Eddie Grasso and Michael Van Ommen. The seminar was attended by forty participants.

The participants were very impressed by the content of the course. Many commented that their experience of learning how to prepare and give their witness, and also how to prepare and deliver a talk on a particular subject were presented in a professional manner. Their enthusiasm was so great that they asked Lucy when could they have another course.

We were very blessed by their praise and worship at the start of the course and during the duration of the course. It was very encouraging for us to see all the participants taking interest and asking questions during the talks.

We thank God for the opportunity He gives us to be able to bring people closer to Him, through the school of Evangelisation. We pray that we will always be receptive to His call and that all who attend the courses be blessed by what they hear and learn.

Eddie Grasso

I attended your course last Friday-Saturday, knowing only that it was about evangelisation and was hosted by the El Shaddai group at Rooty Hill, Sydney.

I come from a Protestant background and have noticed that there is not much emphasis on evangelisation in our Catholic churches even though Peter, our first pope, had been given that mission personally. My curiosity was aroused.

As a teenager I was involved in Rotary Youth Leadership, learning the bare bones of public speaking. Throughout my career and personally, I have spoken in public. Your course will allow me to make a more polished speech if needed in the future.

At present I am an SRE teacher. I have seen how your advice can be used, even with my class of Year 1 and 2 children, because although I knew I was teaching, the course gave me ideas which make the subject more personal for the children i.e. relating a topic to the life of the child. God's hand is in this.

Leaving the best till last. El Shaddai is a prayer group like nothing I've ever experienced. The praise and worship there at the beginning of each session was powerful. Having thought about the second coming and read in Revelations the description of people praising, glorifying and thanking God I realised we don't have to wait until the end times. God filled our hearts, minds and souls with His Presence and it felt the most natural thing in the world to be praising Him. God must surely be delighted with this acclamation. I came away from the weekend uplifted and feeling privileged to have been invited to attend.

Awesome is a word that is frequently used today. But God is AWESOME!

God bless you, Eddie and Michael as you continue to be attentive to God's call.

Carol Brazel

Sydney Congress Embracing The New Evangelisation

SCENE
12th—16th July 2010

*“Anyone who has discovered Christ, must lead others to him.
A great joy cannot be hidden. It has to be passed on!”*

Pope Benedict XVI

One of the most inspiring week-long events has taken place in Sydney in the SCENE Celebrations during 12th–16th July. **The Sydney Congress Embracing the New Evangelisation (SCENE) brought people from all parts of the Catholic Church together for a celebration of Catholic life and evangelisation.** It was a week of events designed to build on the World Youth Day experience by immersing participants in the New Evangelisation.

The New Evangelisation is about sharing our faith with others in a way that speaks to the culture and needs of today, i.e. same Gospel message ... different and creative ways of expressing it. The Congress featured internationally and nationally recognised speakers and contemporary Catholic musicians.

Many of the events took place at St Mary’s Cathedral. A typical SCENE day included a Morning talk by a guest Australian Bishop, Celebration of Mass, Street Evangelisation in Martin Place

alongside live onstage performances and Vocations Expo (over thirty stalls representing different Catholic Orders and Organizations). In the afternoons various Workshops took place, a Holy Hour in the Crypt of the Cathedral and in the evenings Pub Talks about current faith issues.

The SCENE week was also surrounded by other companion events including two Saturday night concerts featuring contemporary Catholic artists, A Family Day, A Retreat Day with Fr Antoine Thomas, and the Children of Hope tour for children in parishes and schools by Fr Antoine.

The School of Evangelisation was invited to take part by presenting two workshops, one on ‘Testimony’ presented by Pat Kelly and another workshop on ‘Encountering the Holy Spirit’ presented by Lucy Grasso. These were well attended and showed participants how to prepare their Testimony effectively and to explore the role of the Holy Spirit, who He is, how He acts and how to respond to his action

in our lives, giving participants an opportunity to deepen their personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

SCENE is a Congress for the Catholic Church in Sydney calling families, parishes, young people, Catechists and teachers, priests and the religious communities and individuals to experience anew the call of the Gospel and to show forth the riches of Christ which have been given to the Church. The event has given the Church in Sydney the opportunity to experience the richness of our faith being presented in a new way, showing Christ to everyone and to humbly but courageously express some of the cultural and human richness of Christianity.

SCENE is unique because it doesn’t just talk about evangelisation, it gets people involved in non-threatening and supported forms of evangelisation in the streets of the CBD. Those who participated in the event spoke very highly of the experience.

Lucy Grasso
Co-ordinator Sydney SOE

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2010			
DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Aug. 26 th —Sept. 23 rd	Personal Prayer	Greystanes, N.S.W.	Lucy 02 9670 4440
Sept. 18 th	John the Baptist	Noarlunga S.A.	Carmen 08 8339 2573
Sept. 24 th —25 th	Personal Prayer	St. Marys N.S.W.	Lucy 02 9670 4440
Sept. 25 th	John the Baptist	Gosford N.S.W.	Jill 02 9449 8098
Oct. 15 th —17 th	Emmaus	Bennettsw ood, Vic.	Adrian 03 9337 2051

Principle of the Loaves and Fishes

. . . By Pat Kelly

Earlier this year I read an article by a Pentecostal pastor about the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. The story of the feeding of the 5000 appears in every gospel (Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-14) and Mark and Matthew also have another story of the feeding of the 4000 (Mk 8:1-10 & Mt 15:32-39). Obviously it was very significant to the early Church.

Many lessons can be drawn from this scripture but the point the author drew from it was the need for the loaves and fishes to be offered. Jesus challenged the apostles to do something themselves about the need the people faced and then asked them what they had to offer. When the apostles, or in John's version a little boy, took the risk and surrendered what they had into Jesus' hands he was able to use what they had given him to feed all the people.

What they had to offer was completely insignificant but in the hands of Jesus it was multiplied beyond anything they could imagine. Five loaves & two fish fed 5000 men, not counting women and children, and twelve baskets of food was leftover.

The "Loaves and Fishes" principle is that when faced with any need or challenge you offer to Jesus

what you have, you do something, and then allow Jesus to take that small something and work a miracle with it. This principle can be applied in many ways, for example, if your prayer group is struggling for numbers ask Jesus to increase the numbers but give him something to work with.....invite someone!

Another way my wife and I have tried to put this "Loaves and Fishes" principle into practice is in regard to our finances. We have been putting a little extra money into the Lord's hands each week and asking him to multiply it. For example this week we gave the Lord an extra \$50 and in the course of the week a friend gave us a gift of \$300 (it was their "change tin" & all in 50c pieces!), my wife won a \$200 gift voucher and another friend gave us four tickets to the Penguin Parade on Phillip Island (worth \$60).

You may find the "Loaves & Fishes" principle a help in your life, just try to take a little step in dealing with a problem you are facing and trust in Jesus to multiply the effects. If you would like to do that in a financial way by using that little bit extra to support Gideon's Army then that would be much appreciated but don't limit it just to finances, apply it to your life.

SOLDIERS FOR GOD – GIDEON'S ARMY

"Yahweh then said to Gideon, With the three hundred who lapped the water, I shall rescue you." Judges 7:7

Would you consider becoming a new member of the Gideon's Army appeal? \$100 annual subscription. New soldiers urgently needed!

Thank you to all existing members - May God bless you abundantly!



<p style="text-align: center;">GIDEON'S ARMY</p> <p>Please enrol me/us in Gideon's Army:</p> <p>NAME (or NAME OF GROUP).....</p> <p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>TELEPHONE: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL</p> <p>Please find my annual contribution of \$100 enclosed</p> <p>OR Please forward National Bank deposit slip for one off annual contribution</p> <p>OR I wish to contribute by _____ deposits of \$ _____ each, please forward deposit slips.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for filling out this form!</p> <p>Please make cheques payable to: School of Evangelisation, and return them to:</p> <p>GIDEON'S ARMY School of Evangelisation P.O. Box 168 Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995</p> <p>Enquiries: Pat Kelly ph. (03) 5672 2772</p>
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Catholic School of Evangelisation
P.O. Box 168
Wonthaggi 3995
Phone 03 5672 2772

THE WITNESS

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POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Peace starts with a smile.

.....

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

.....

**Coincidence is when God chooses
to remain anonymous.**

Parishes on Fire Conference

St Clement of Rome Parish Centre Bulleen

8th-10th October 2010

Main speakers: **Bishop Julian Porteous** will speak on **Kerygma**.
Fr Michael Shadbolt will speak on **Healing**.
Anselmo Ruspicioni will speak on **Community**.

Keep these dates free to be uplifted, inspired and graced by the Holy Spirit!

For information please contact Adrian Commadeur:
03 93372051, or acommade@bigpond.net.au