



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

August 2011 Newsletter

Joshua: Developing a Victorious Mentality

When we look at the world today we can see many things to give us cause for worry and fear. Poverty, war, climate change in the world; violence and greed in our nation; empty churches and rejection of Christian moral values in our own community; marriage breakdown and loss of faith even in our own families. This reality can lead to a loss of hope and a defeatist mentality.

When the People of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land Moses sent twelve scouts ahead of them to reconnoiter the land. When they came back ten of the spies were overcome with fear at the strength of the enemy, only Caleb and Joshua gave a positive report.

“And Joshua said, If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give

it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people, the Lord is with us; do not fear them.”

Numbers 14:8-9

Joshua did not focus on the enormous problems they faced, he focused on the strength and power of the solution to the problems – GOD! Joshua’s confidence and courage stemmed from his relationship with God and his absolute conviction that God was with them, that God would keep his promises to them. They had no need to fear, the battle was already won.

We need to have this winning mentality, the mentality of Joshua and Caleb who overcame impossible odds

because they put their trust in God. We need to take to heart the words that Moses spoke to Joshua and make them our own.

“Be strong, stand firm; you will be the one to go with this people into the country which The Lord has sworn to their ancestors that he would give them; you are to be the one who puts them into possession of it. The Lord himself will lead you; he will be with you; he will not fail you or desert you. Have no fear, do not be alarmed.”

Deut 31:7-8

In September and October the School will be introducing a new course – JOSHUA.

This course retraces the journey of Joshua as he leads the Chosen People into the Promised Land. This course will be an opportunity for you to come

with Joshua on this incredible journey. Travel with Joshua and apply the principles he learned in your own life. Let the Lord lead you into your own “Promised Land.”

See page 12 for details of course in Melbourne and Adelaide.

By Pat Kelly.



Above: Participants in the International School - Paul Course, Muzzano Italy, which the Melbourne CSOE co-ordinator, Tony Grieve, attended in August 2011. See page 6 for his report.

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This newsletter is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

ARBN 133199185

It is published in May, August and December.

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School of Evangelisation
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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.

LIFEBOAT EVANGELISATION

By Pat Kelly

Some months ago we saw on our TV screens the horrible and shocking scene of a refugee ship being smashed to pieces on the rocks at Christmas Island. The local people were standing on the shore completely helpless, unable to offer any assistance as the helpless seafarers drowned.

This situation was something right out of our experience but back in the 1800's, in the days of sailing ships, many ships were wrecked and such an event was common. Like the Christmas Islanders people could do nothing but watch in horror as sailors were swept to their death. After all what could any individual do in the face of the awesome power of sea and storm?

Then in the early 1800's, the people of the British Isles realised that while individually there wasn't much they could do, together they could make a difference. They trained as lifeboat crews and working together as a team they were able to save many lives. In fact since 1824 the Royal National Lifeboat Institute crews have saved 139,000 people.

This situation can be compared with evangelisation. Right now we are surrounded by people who are victims of spiritual shipwreck. Their lives are a mess and their salvation is at risk, they are in great danger of being lost for all eternity. They are literally sending up an SOS – Save our Souls!

As individuals we are limited in what we can do but when we come together as the People of God then we can truly make a difference. The first challenge is to be people who are united as the Body of Christ, united in love we are a great witness to Jesus. Like the lifeboat crew, we can only be effective in our rescue work if we have a real bond of unity and trust, if in fact we truly love one another. This is the Koinonia in KeKaKo. This is what we are trying to do with our Parish Evangelisation Team – form a evangelising community of love.

The second challenge is to be equipped as evangelisers. A lifeboat crew doesn't just jump in the boat and set out, they train so they can be effective in their rescue work. This is the Kerygma in KeKaKo. You need to commit the time to attend the courses of the School to be trained and retrained as an evangeliser. How long since you attended a School course?

The third challenge is to be people of boldness and courage. A lifeboat crew doesn't sit safe in the boatshed while the storm rages outside, they ignore the danger and put out into the deep. We need to be people filled with the boldness and courage of the Holy Spirit. People who are prepared to take the risk of leaving our comfortable churches or prayer groups to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is the Karisma of KeKaKo. To believe that the Holy Spirit wants to use us as evangelisers and if we follow Him He will make us effective in bringing people to Christ.

Then we will experience the joy of working with the Holy Spirit and our brothers and sister in Christ to bring the lost to safety. Seeing people filled with faith and hope and love and returning them to the wonderful embrace of our Heavenly Father's arms.



Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Reunion

By Adrian Commadeur

"Well done on Saturday. I am sure you are all on the right track. God turns all things to good for those who love him"

commented Fr Brendan Lane on the reunion held on 23rd July 2011, with an attendance of 70 graduates of the Catholic School of Evangelisation at the CCR Centre in North Fitzroy. Fr Brendan is the Rector of the Seminary in Carlton and formerly Parish Priest at Mill Park where the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program was pioneered very successfully.

The event was organised to honour the memory of the founder of the School, Bishop Joe Grech, who died in December 2010. People came from all over Melbourne and Victoria, to remember Bishop Joe and to be reminded of the important work of training for person to person evangelisation in our secularised culture. Fr Lane said in his homily that Bishop Joe was a man ahead of his time. When most were talking about the need to evangelise, Bishop Joe spoke about 'how' to evangelise.

In an environment of praise and worship, led by Ron Joseph and Henry Solomon, three speakers addressed the key issues of evangelisation for those present.



Adrian Commadeur spoke about the importance of witnessing to one's own conversion and relationship with Jesus, accompanied by the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as praying for healing. Tony Grieve, Director of the Melbourne Team of the School, explained how to proclaim the essential aspects of the gospel, the Kerygma, such as God's personal love for us, the salvation brought about by Jesus to redeem us from sin, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, empowering us to lead our Christian life, in its fullness. The

last speaker was the National Director, Pat Kelly who spoke on the importance of sharing our Catholic lives in a community of faith, and invited those present to some evangelising action on their part.

Maria Feleppa and team were the gracious hosts with hot soup and other delicacies to make the fellowship so warm and enjoyable. In a small way the reunion recreated the days of the early church where the community "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." And "everyone was filled with awe.." and prayed for the signs and miracles of those days to make the preaching of the gospel more effective.

Bishop Joe Grech may not have built too many churches or schools, but his legacy was present on the day, with all those present giving witness that through the School of Evangelisation he founded, and the many courses conducted, all had experienced transformed lives, and were filled with zeal for the gospel. In fact around Australia and overseas, there are more than a thousand people who can say: "Bishop Joe made my heart on fire for Jesus".

FREEDOM IN CHRIST:

When I visited the Koinonia John the Baptist community in Belfast earlier this year I was introduced to a discipleship formation seminar they were conducting called "Steps to Freedom in Christ." The community have found the seminar to be very helpful in helping both new and old Christians to grow in their faith.

The "Steps to Freedom in Christ" is based on the work of Neil T. Anderson published in two books, "Victory over Darkness" and "The Bondage Breaker" (Monarch Books, Oxford). While I read these books I must admit I found the companion series Freedom in Christ by Steve Goss, based on Anderson's work, easier to read and understand. These four books are: 'Free to be Yourself', 'Win the daily battle',

Book Review by Pat Kelly

'Break free, Stay free' and 'The You God planned' (Monarch Books, Oxford).

I found the books very helpful in recognising the lies of the world and the devil that I had come to believe and even the lies I told myself and believed over the years. In recognising these lies I am now finding it easier to live by the truth of Jesus Christ rather than the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil.

While the books are written from a Protestant perspective and do have some Calvinistic elements overall I would recommend them as a way to break free of the negative thought patterns that we have built up over the years which hold us back from living the fullness of life that Jesus offers us.

Reunion Revives Memories

By Sandra Bishop

At the recent Melbourne School of Evangelisation reunion there was sure evidence of the bonds formed at the first English School of Evangelisation held in 1994 as we greeted one another. It made me think of Tertullian's "See how they love one another". If I recall correctly there were fifty-three participants at the original three week school way back in 1994, participants from Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, the three Victorian country dioceses as well as the Melbourneites. We became known as the St Benedict school. It was Lidia Oricco and the Italian group who facilitated our school, at which Javier Silva from Mexico taught alongside Bishop Joe and Fr Vic. Lidia, who I class as the "Mother of the School of Evangelisation" attended the reunion at which 8 of us "originals" were present.

The three weeks we spent on "John" and "Paul" were life changing experiences. "Creativity" and "What time is it? It's time to evangelise" were the catch phrases back in 1994. The circumstances of our lives bring changes, however one thing remains the focus for those of us eight "originals" and that is the urge to evangelise and we are doing it in many and varied ways, in families, prayer groups, parishes, the wider community, work places and so on. The majority of Catholics cringe at the word "evangelisation" and are often quick to add "you don't have to stand on a soapbox, you only have to live a good life and people see it and it is enough". What a cop out!! Pope Paul VI in the document *Evangelii Nuntiandi* explains in paragraph 22 that type of silent witness is necessary but always insufficient and ineffective. So what do we do, how do we evangelise, do we need a soapbox, do we need to bash people

over the head with a bible or try and scare people to death by claiming all the natural disasters are apocalyptic events. NO, no, no.

Tony Grieve, the new Melbourne Team Leader gave the clue at the reunion - we need to listen for the **window of opportunity**. So how do we do that? Personally, I begin my day by asking God to give me opportunities to share His love and I ask that I will be able to recognise the prompts that God gives as I interact with people. Next, we have to practise our listening skills. When we remain open to the prompts of the Holy Spirit there will be effective evangelisation and

someone's life. It's often the case that the person I am listening to is going through a trial of which I have had a similar experience. So I streamline my testimony so that it will shed some God light through the person's window of opportunity. Now that I earn a living with Avon, I say that I sell Avon but give Jesus for free. When a person feels listened to they will be more likely to listen back. If we don't listen and just go full on with some rehearsed speech it will not be received well. Yes, it is always time to evangelise but we must do it in union with the Holy Spirit and always exercise creativity.

To be honest, I had to process how I felt after the reunion. There were many memories of people and times past. Many, like Bishop Joe are no longer with us, several of the "originals" predeceased Bishop Joe. Many of the schools and teams that had been established over the years are no longer functioning in the same capacity. The saying goes: God disturbs the comfortable and comforts the disturbed. I take comfort in rejoicing that the SOE is active in so many places. I also take comfort in the knowledge that we have a team of SOE graduates who have entered eternal life and are in a fantastic place to intercede for the work of evangelisation. Let us keep one another in prayer so that we remain faithful to our commitment that it is always time to evangelise with creativity.

What's The Time?



many "God-incidences" which are sometimes confused as coincidences.

It's my experience that the Holy Spirit is very economical, even the yucky times of our lives can be used to bring about a good in



Above: Participants in the New Life Course, Waitara, N.S.W. - May 2011

Pentecost Weekend with Fr Jack Soulsby

By Josephine Baluyot

Excitement mounted in Adelaide Charismatic circles as we anticipated the Fire of the Holy Spirit being poured upon us at the Pentecost Weekend through the ministry of Fr Jack Soulsby from Brisbane.

No one left there disappointed. Here is what was communicated to me through Fr Jack Soulsby this week-end.

Pentecost celebrates, the incarnate and risen Christ present in us in a new way through the gift of the Holy Spirit, enlivening, empowering and transforming us to further Christ's redemptive mission. Pentecost signals the presence of the Holy Spirit and transforms us in everyday life to be conduits for the outpouring of Christ's love and grace. To mark this significant day in the life of the Church, we reflected on the promise of spiritual transformation which is made possible through the intimate power and presence of the Holy Spirit. We are to experience a fresh wind of the Spirit in our life and ministry!

Christ is formed in us, and a spiritual transformation is the process ...for the glory of God, and for the abundance of our own lives, and for the sake of others. (Galatians 4:19; Romans 8:29; Romans 12:1, 2) The possibility that human beings can be transformed to such an extent, that they image Christ is central to the message of the gospel, and therefore it is central to the mission of the Church. Spiritual transformation in the lives of redeemed people is a testimony to the power of the Gospel and it results in an increasing capacity to discern and do the will of God. (Romans 12:2)

It is God's will and delight that we actively resist being conformed to this world and seek instead to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Thus, any approach to transformation that seeks to bring about real change, involves clear teaching about the nature of the Christian life, and helps us to fully surrender to God.

However, the process of transformation is also supernatural in that it is something only God can accomplish in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us as our advocate, teacher and counsellor, to lead us into truth, as we are able to bear it and to communicate the depths of God.

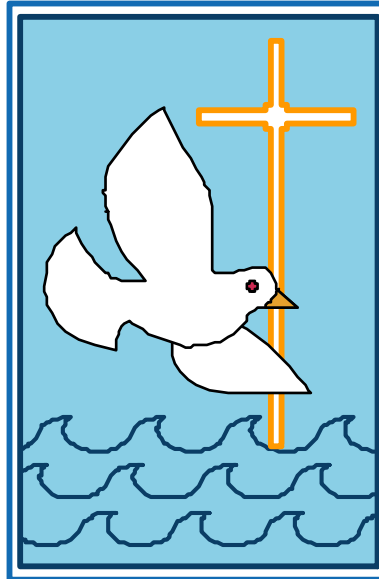
We can find ways to open to this process of transformation as we're guided by the Holy Spirit. We are given to one another in the body of Christ for mutual edification and to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Our spiritual gifts are given, not primarily for our own benefit, but so we can be agents of grace for one another, building up the Body of which we are only one part, that it brings glory to God and it is a means that enables us to communicate the presence of Christ to others and to discern how to live in loving actions.

The loving presence and ac-

tion includes sharing our faith (evangelism), giving generously of our resources, reconciliation and peace making (interpersonally and also across lines of gender, and people groups), working for justice, exercising compassion and care for the poor, and working for the betterment of life in the human community in Jesus' name. All true spiritual formation is for the glory of God, for the abundance of our own lives and for the sake of others, for this we toil and struggle with all the energy that God so powerfully inspires within us.

Thank God for the three wonderful "graces" He gives us: patience, kindness, and goodness -- all fruits of the Spirit which we can read about in Galatians 5:22. Ministering to others means willingly extending those very actions to them ...despite how we feel or how tired we are.

As Fr Jack proves in his 79th year, age is no barrier. We thank God that He keeps him in good health to keep inspiring people to live like the "Bride of Christ" fully enamoured with Christ, fully in Love with Christ, fully obedient to our bridegroom who has only one desire in his heart. To raise us up into people of God, to become who God says we are. Children of God with an inheritance no eye has seen, no mind as yet been able to comprehend. Amen Amen.



Paul Course, Muzzano Italy - August 2011

By Tony Grieve

This Paul course was sensational with twenty-five students most of whom were young people with an average age of about thirty and most seem to be connected to Koinonia John the Baptist who conducted the course. They are all on fire and want to come to Australia to evangelise. As Melbourne Team Leader I was very privileged to be able to attend. Muzzano is nestled in the foothills of the beautiful Italian Alps and boasts a substantial Salesian House which apparently can accommodate two hundred people. Each person was allocated a single room with its own ensuite – not large but functional.

Altogether we were a group of thirty-five made up of twenty-five students and ten support staff from Czech Republic, England, Italy, Poland, Spain and Australia (= 3 Communities. I was in the English speaking community called 'Wind of Change'. Support staff were two lecturers (Paola and Miriam), four interpreters (Aga, Anselmo, Eva and Marie), one musician (Juanfra) and three other talented brothers who could assist in varying degrees with lecturing, interpreting, music, technical and general support duties (Alex, Gennaro and Mico). All of these staff people belong to Koinonia. I was the only Australian and all courses were given in Italian. The interpreters did a great job.

After a 6am rise, each day was structured around prayer and lectures. Rostered duties were allotted to each of the three communities including cleaning, dining room service, presenting a dynamic summary of previous day's teachings, leading

Community prayer, animations and games. We had daily Mass when a priest was available.

The course covers the Kerygma from every possible perspective and the kerygma of today is seen as a synthesis of the kerygma of Jesus, the kerygma of the apostles and God's plan of Salvation. One thing I was made aware of is there is an overlap between Kerygma and Catechesis. This was something new and in practice would be a reality.

We had two days of practical evangelisation in a local town Cossato and were allowed to take only a Bible and as a concession to the heat a hat. Money, water, food or mobile phones were not allowed – The Lord Jesus would be our Provider.

This was very hard for me as I never go anywhere without money and my mobile phone. We had to rely on prayer and humility and ask people for our needs. The Lord did not let us down. The very first door we knocked on an old lady answered, turned away and bolted the door. A few minutes later she reappeared with money thinking we were after donations. Anselmo asked her for water - our first drink. I will always remember that glass of water. Thank you Jesus.

This experience of trusting in God had a major impact on me.

Each day one of the three communities did a summary of the previous day using creativity as to theme, setting, music, dance, songs, plays, poetry, art work etc. I suggested to our community (English Speaking with Anselmo as our interpreter) that we should use my kerygma poem in a hip hop style to present the kerygma with the setting to be the Upper Esplanade at St Kilda on a Sunday afternoon as a way of attracting people passing by to us who we could evangelise and invite to join our community.

We added a chant between each verse:

Do you want this love from God?
(x2)

I dressed up with my cap on back to front, sunglasses, dark tracksuit top and pants, trainers, Rosary beads around my neck as advised by my young fellow students. Juan introduced me then he and the other five (Domenicka, Kamilla, Asia, Joanna (Mama) and Asher) all did a dance routine as they sang the chorus - that was my cue to come to the front as the Hip Hop Man and away we went - it was a smash hit and we got 3/3 for it from Miriam who was the judge.

Creativity seems to be the key to attract people to the message of the Kerygma.

I am blown away by the youthfulness of the people at every level that I saw and the love they have for everybody. I think Australia is about the only continent where they do not have a fully established presence. I think Pat and Anne Kelly and their House of Prayer are the only visible evidence of it here. In any event Pat and Anne certainly made their presence felt over there in a big way - so many people asked to be remembered to them.



Above: Some of the happy participants at the Paul Course in Muzzano

DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT: Emmaus Noarlunga, S.A. ... By Kevin Tilley

Where does the Bible fit in to my Catholic Life? That was the challenge put to me when a Member of the CSOE invited our Church congregation on a two day course titled "Emmaus". It had me wondering.

I've never spent much time studying and trying to understand the Old Testament. My Catholic faith had been based on the Gospels and the

various Letters that make up the New Testament. My Bible on the book shelf was in near mint condition.

I decided to take up the challenge and attend the course. After all, it was only one weekend. The course quickly told me that I really only had part of the message of God in my faith. I learned that much of the New Testament is hidden in the writings of the Old



A synagogue scene - Emmaus course, Noarlunga S.A.

Testament, and that the Old Testament is revealed in much of the New Testament.

The Emmaus journey is to travel with the risen Jesus on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus with Cleopas and his friend, who were sad with grief for the loss of Jesus, only to realize that they had been talking to the risen Jesus. Their sorrow immediately turned to joy as they

rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.

I encourage anyone who is looking for enlightenment in the Scriptures, to attend the course. Go on the journey with Jesus.

I thank all the team who ran the course for a truly faithful experience.

Anselmo Ruspicioni - Koinonia John the Baptist Community VISIT OCTOBER 2011

Anselmo Ruspicioni from the Koinonia John the Baptist community in Italy will be visiting Australia in October. Anselmo visited Australia last year and was a speaker at the Parish Evangelisation Conference at Bulleen. His main focus in this visit will be to work towards the establishment of the Koinonia John the Baptist community in Australia. He will also be presenting the Joshua course and helping to train people to conduct House of Prayer evangelisation.



October 1st-6th South Gippsland

- Visits to Prayer Groups
- House of Prayer in Wonthaggi.

October 6th- 9th Melbourne

- Thurs: Prayer Group Moonee Ponds
- Fri: SOE Co-Ordinators Meeting Bennettswood
- Sat. & Sun: Joshua Course Doveton

October 10th-12th Brisbane

- Mon: Brisbane Team
- Tues: Training day House of Prayer

October 12th-18th Adelaide

- Wed: House of Prayer, Noarlunga
- Thurs & Fri: Day with Italians
- Sat. & Sun: Joshua Course

October 18th-23rd Wonthaggi

- Tues: House of Prayer
- Sat: New Life
- Sun: Open Koinonia Day

If you wish to be part of any of these activities contact your local co-ordinator for further details.

PROGRESS OF THE SYDNEY SCHOOL: A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOE

By: Lucy Grasso - Co-Ordinator: Sydney School of Evangelisation

The Sydney School of Evangelisation (SSOE) was founded by the late Bishop Joe Grech in **February 1999** when a group of Croatian youth attended courses in Melbourne in 1998 at the request of Bishop Joe. They brought the first 'John' Course (Formation of Disciples) to **Sydney Diocese**, with the blessing of Cardinal Clancy, conducted at the CCR Centre, Rozelle, under the leadership of Vera Visevic, our first Co-ordinator.

In that same year another two courses were held at Rozelle, namely: 'Apollos' (Formation of Teachers and Preachers) and Paul' (Formation of Evangelisers) with presenters from the Melbourne, including Bishop Joe. The young Croatian people together with Michael van Ommen, the CCR Centre Manager, hosted the Courses, preparing the venue, gathering resources and dynamics and promoting the School. The result: courses, Service Teams and Teachers in Sydney just multiplied and have continued to grow and develop for the next 12 years.

At the conclusion of our first John Course in February 1999, Adrian Commadeur established a Sydney School of Evangelisation Service Team represented by graduates from various Dioceses who attended the course. He gave the SSOE Service Team a vision with the challenge to take the School of Evangelisation to six Dioceses namely: **Sydney, Broken**

Bay, Parramatta, Wollongong, Maitland-Newcastle, and Bathurst. At the time we felt this was a tremendous task, little did we know how this would eventuate by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the year **2000** the John Course (Formation of Disciples) was presented again, this time in the **Parramatta Diocese** with the blessing of Bishop Kevin Manning. This course was conducted by Sydney SOE teachers and led by Adrian Commadeur, training, encouraging and supporting us all the way. Teacher Training Workshops helped us to improve our quality of teaching and presentations. Later on in March 2004 we conducted a New Life Course. During this course parents requested if they could bring the children. A 'New Life Course for Kids' was adapted to suit primary children, while parents attended the adult course. This is another area where the Holy Spirit opened us to meet a need that has developed very successfully.

In **September 2001** a change of leadership took place when Vera Visevic had to relinquish her responsibility as Co-Ordinator. Lucy Grasso was appointed to replace her.

In **May 2002** the SSOE 'put out into the deep' further South from Sydney and conducted courses in **Wollongong Diocese** with the blessing of Bishop Peter Ingham and the assistance of the CCR. In July 2002 the first John Course was

conducted in Corrimal. A new Wollongong School of Evangelisation Service Team was established with Paul Farrugia being appointed as Co-ordinator and a team of 6 other dedicated members. Very soon this Service Team took on the vision of extending the Mission Mentality and conducted courses in different Parishes with great commitment and dedication. They are always ready to join together with the SSOE Team to conduct courses when necessary. Our Regional Days and other times we come together we can feel the bond strengthening us in fellowship.

In **2003** the SSOE conducted its first John Course in the **Broken Bay Diocese** with the blessing of Bishop David Walker. After a series of courses were presented in the Pymble Parish over a 3 year period, a Parish School of Evangelisation was established in **March 2006** with the great support of Fr Tadeusz, then Parish Priest. The Pymble Parish School of Evangelisation is under the leadership of Jill Seymour but still remains under the umbrella of the Sydney School. The main objective of this School is to evangelise the neighbouring Parishes and establish a Parish SOE in every one of them. This has come into effect as the New Life Course has been presented in the Waitara Parish in May 2011 and the Emmaus Course to be presented end of August 2011. Fr Tadeusz, who is now Parish Priest at East Gosford invited the Pymble Team to conduct courses in his Parish. The first Course 'New Life' was presented in August 2009 with more courses conducted in 2010 and 2011.



Above: Participants in the Personal Prayer course, Marrickville 2011

Continued p.9...

PROGRESS OF THE SYDNEY SCHOOL ... Continued from p.8

In **2006** the SSOE ventured further North to **Maitland-Newcastle Diocese** and conducted the first New Life Course in November 2006 in Wallsend with the blessing of Bishop Michael Malone and the approval of Fr Anthony Brady, PP of Wallsend-Shortland Parishes. It was a miracle how we met Fr Brady at a CCR Conference in Canberra. Fr Brady had heard about the school and attended a course in Ireland and was delighted to have us come into his Parish. The amazing openings of the Holy Spirit, who can tell them? Since then we have presented other Courses.

We are still hoping for an opening in **Bathurst Diocese**. Recently Pat Kelly had an opportunity to meet with Bishop Michael McKenna and we hope that our sixth Diocese will be conquered in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The **Year 2007** and following, opened for us the opportunity to conduct courses at Parishes, Communities, Adult Formation Groups, and CCR Prayer Groups. St Marys Parish in the Parramatta Diocese invited us to implement the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program which consisted of four courses with the objective of giving parishioners a Mission Mentality. The PEFP was presented at a Parish Assembly in June 2006 which took place as a follow up from a Parish Mission. The Parish Council took the SSOE on board and the New Life course commenced in February 2007. Fr Bob Bossini, PP. was very supportive and joined us in giving teachings and presenting these courses as well as others, over the following four years. He is now at another Parish and still very supportive of the SSOE.

In **June 2007** we were invited to present courses to the Croatian Community at St John's Park in the Sydney Diocese with the blessing of Fr Marjan. The young people of this Community brought the School to Sydney in 1999 so you can imagine what joy filled our heart as we were able to bring this great tool of Evangelisation to a Community who had helped in its beginnings. The young people have moved away now but the Spirit of a deep love for the faith is still in this community. While the parents have been attending the Adult Course we have been able to offer their children: 'New Life for Kids'; 'Emmaus for Kids'; 'Discipleship for Kids' with a great response.

In **2009** the highlight of the Year was our **10th Anniversary** which was celebrated with a Thanksgiving Mass at Rozelle and a Dinner attended by 120 guests and 3 Bishops, Bishops Joe Grech, Julian Porteous and Peter Ingham. We were able to have present with us the Director of the School, Pat Kelly, Adrian Commadeur and all interstate Co-ordinators. This was a time to give glory to God for the wonderful deeds he did amongst us.

There is so much more that I can write about as I reflect on the tremendous work the Holy Spirit has done with us. The Lord has opened for us many avenues this year, **2011**. It feels as if it truly is the 'Year of the Lord's Favour'. By the end of August we would have completed 8 Courses at different venues. This is incredible! They're still coming! We have bookings for 6 Courses to see us through the end of the year. Thanks be to God! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SSOE Service Team, past and present, all those who have supported us in conducting courses, the priests who have trusted us to minister in their parish, all graduates who attended our courses, all those who have opened the doors to allow us to serve and evangelise in the Name of the Lord.

I am so thankful to be a part of the Catholic School of Evangelisation to carry through this mission. The work of the Holy Spirit is being manifested in us as we prepare our teachings relying on His power to deliver what we prepare for the benefit of the participants. We continually need to trust the Holy Spirit and to believe that He will bring to completion the work He started in us. We need to give room for the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us and the rest is his transforming work. This is the grace of the Holy Spirit for the Catholic School of Evangelisation, the '**Multipling Factor**'. Praise God!

I believe that Bishop Joe would be telling us all to keep up the good work, do not be afraid and always

... **"BE CONFIDENT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT"**.



Greystanes OLQP Prayer Group, May—June 2011

ST. MATTHEW - THE MAN, THE METHOD, THE MESSAGE

By Adrian Commadeur

In this year 2011, of Matthew's Gospel for Sunday readings, quite a number of prayer groups have asked for teachings about this most read, longest, and most preached gospel. Matthew, also called Levi in Mark's gospel, was called by Jesus in Capharnaum (Mt 9,9) and left his tax table immediately, and became an eye witness to what Jesus did. Matthew recorded more parables and teachings than any of the other evangelists.

From inner evidence of the gospel itself, Matthew knew his Scriptures – the Old Testament – well, and quoted it about 40 times. As a tax collector he was interested in money and figures, and quotes favourite numbers, especially seven, the perfect number.

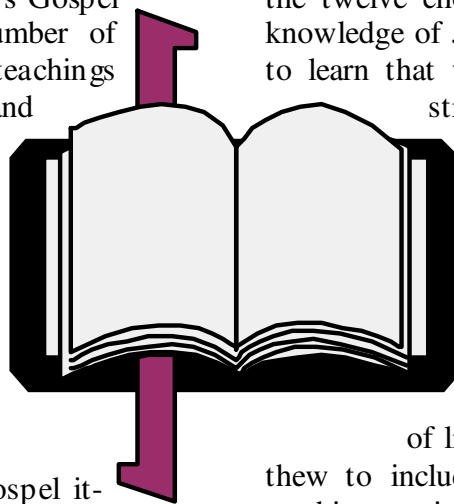
Many who heard the teachings, given by Maria and John Luff and Adrian Commadeur, in East Keilor, Airport West, West Preston and in Bendigo, learnt a lot about this gospel, with material taken from the School of Evangelisation course *Jesus in the Four Gospels*. This course was composed by Jose Prado, founder of the School in Mexico. As a good teacher he basically makes three points in each of the three talks relating to Matthew as the writer, the content of the gospel, and how Jesus is presented.

People did not realise that Matthew was one of

the twelve chosen apostles, and so had intimate knowledge of Jesus. It came as a surprise to some to learn that within the gospel, Matthew places stress on the establishment by Jesus of the Church, with Peter at its head. Being written for Jewish converts mainly, it also contained much teaching like a Catechism of doctrine about the Kingdom of Heaven. In a way the gospel was written for those who were seeking a more perfect and holy way of life. That is the reason also for Matthew to include more than twenty parables, all teaching an important lesson about the value of Kingdom living.

One of the discoveries from the gospel is that Jesus is portrayed in a particular way as Son: Son of God, Son of Abraham, Son of David, son of Mary and son of the Carpenter – Joseph. As Jesus gave the new law of love, particularly described in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7), Jesus is also the New Moses and the New Elijah.

The School with its many courses, which can be adapted to the needs of the participants – whether at prayer group or parish or diocesan level, has much to offer the Catholic who seeks to inform his or her faith with the wisdom of God. May Jesus continue to be proclaimed by word and deed by all who participate in these courses.



SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2011

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept 24 th —25 th	JOSHUA	Narre Warren, Vic	Pat: 03 5672 2772
Oct 8 th —9 th	JOSHUA	Doveton, Vic	Tony: 03 9735 4799
Oct 15 th —16 th	JOSHUA	Hindmarsh, SA	Carmen: 08 8339 2573
Oct 15 th —16 th	EMMAUS	Ashfield, NSW	Lucy: 02 9670 4440
Oct 22 th —29 th	CHARISMS	Marrickville, NSW	Lucy: 02 9670 4440
Dec 3 th —4 th	JESUS IN THE 4 GOSPELS	E. Gosford, NSW	Jill: 02 9449 8098

Courses subject to confirmation and may change. Please contact local co-ordinator for further information.

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September 24th-25th

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Narre Warren, Vic.

Led by Pat Kelly. Ph. 03 5672 2772

October 8th—9th

Holy Family Parish, Doveton, Vic.

Led by Anselmo Ruspicioni. Contact: Tony, 03 9735 4799.

October 15th—16th

Sacred Heart Parish, Hindmarsh, S.A.

Led by Anselmo Ruspicioni. Contact: Carmen, 08 8339 2573.

