



The Witness

Newsletter of the Catholic Schools of Evangelisation
August 2005

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A Cry for Help

by Anna Breheny

Recently I read the testimony of a man who said that during his intimate prayer time, he sensed the Holy Spirit was weeping. When he asked the Spirit, "Why do you weep?" the man himself began to weep. It wasn't just tears, but an awful feeling of grief that accompanied them. This grief and these tears lasted for three weeks and it was a glimpse of the sadness and pain the Holy Spirit must endure as He watches the souls He loves so much, being lost every day.

Because of this experience, this man was able to realise the urgency and importance of praying for conversions and evangelising people who have not yet come to the Lord. That experience gave him a passion for souls that has never diminished or departed.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why must I evangelise?" We all know we are called to evangelise by virtue of our baptism, but why? The answer is **salvation**. It's the reason Jesus came to this earth, it's the theme of the Bible, it's the

mission of the church, it's the reason the disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and it's the reason why God has equipped us with all the gifts of the Spirit. The reason is **salvation** of the



souls our Lord loves so much, who are being lost every day.

There are people in the School of Evangelisation who have given their lives for the cause of evangelisation - just like Jesus did. I don't mean literally, but these people die to themselves and pick up their cross every day and follow Jesus. Day after day, these people enter the

front lines of the battle against Satan and his demons. Day after day, they put themselves and their loved ones at risk to do the work the Lord has called them to do. Day after day, they endure persecution and spiritual attack.

These are usually things that are kept quiet, things we don't like to talk about because they're classed as being negative. But I'm going to be completely honest and up front here, because this needs to be spoken about and not kept hidden—because to keep it hidden only assists Satan to do his work.

The people in the SOE need urgent help. There are wondrous things beginning to happen here. The SOE is penetrating the parishes of Australia, to bring the Word of God, not only to the already converted, but to the every day parishioners, whose souls are starving for knowledge, information and infilling of the Spirit. The SOE is bringing the Word to these people in a dynamic and powerful way.

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Special Point of Interest:

Enroll NOW for the SOE November Courses

check page 9

The Witness

The Witness is published each April, August and December.

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The Witness is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne, Australia. The members of the Decision Making Body are:

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Jenny Hagan — Cell group Coordinator
John Breheny — Secretary
Anna Breheny — Editor

as well as all School Diocesan Coordinators in Australia.

**Check out information about
the School of Evangelisation
on the CCR web page:
www.ccr.org.au**

**Deadline for the next issue
of The Witness
10 November 2005**

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 Decision Making Body 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 Diocesan Coordinators involved in the distribution of

The Witness. May God bless you.

Do we, for one minute, believe that Satan isn't going to have something to say about that? This is not a negative statement - it's cold, hard reality. *"We are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world..."* (Eph 6:12).

Our leaders, coordinators and teachers are under attack. Not only them, but their families also. How devastating to watch a child suffer because its parent is doing the work of the Lord. How awful it is to see happy marriages come under incredible pressure because one or both parties have said "Yes" to God's call of being instruments of His salvation.

I believe God wants to protect his people as they do His work. But as we all know, we need to ask Him for this protection. I believe the Holy Spirit grieves and weeps for all evangelisers, too, as they suffer more than they have to for doing the work of God.

The workers of the SOE need urgent, powerful and ongoing prayer. They need a powerhouse of prayer behind them. Without such a powerhouse, it's like trying to run a steam engine without any coal.

We appeal to you for such support. There are approximately 2500 graduates of the SOE. Every one of you has benefited greatly from the courses the School has offered. You have learned how to have a closer walk with Jesus. For many of you, including myself, God has used the School of Evangelisation as the very instrument of your salvation. Do you remember the bliss of the John (Formation of Disciples) Course? I remember walking on air when I came out of that course, after Jesus poured His precious love into my heart until it spilled out of me in the form of tears. I haven't stopped crying from the sheer joy of knowing Him, since that course. I'm certain all of you have had similar experiences (see Clarissa's story on page 3). So now, the School needs your help.

Some suggestions are:

- ♦ Dedicate your prayers once a week (or more) for protection, growth and fruitfulness for the School.
- ♦ Offer up a Mass (or more) each week for the SOE.
- ♦ If you belong to an intercessory prayer group, you could pray for the School each time you meet.
- ♦ Most of you belong to Charismatic prayer groups - could you please offer up prayers for the School each week.
- ♦ Pray the Rosary for this intention each week.
- ♦ Register on Pat Kelly's prayer list. He will remind you regularly of special intentions that require your prayers. Phone (03) 5672 2772 or email pakelly@archis.com.au

Not everyone is called to evangelise from the front lines, but we are all called to evangelise **on our knees**. We need many people praying for this every day so the burden of the School's teachers, leaders and coordinators can be lessened. Jesus is just waiting to ease the burden, to protect and provide, but **he needs to be asked**. He's just waiting to be asked. Will you ask Him for us, please.

Remember, when you pray for others, the blessings are returned to you a hundredfold. Thank you all and may Our Lord continue to bless you abundantly.

Anna

Formation of Disciples Course—Canberra SOE

by Lucy Grasso



“Those who have come into a genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him.”
(John Paul II - *Novo Millennion Ineunte*)

The Canberra School of Evangelisation held a

FORMATION OF DISCIPLES

Course on 18-23rd April, 2005, with eight participants, mostly young people. The members of the team presenting this course were: Les Roberts, Canberra co-ordinator,

Ann Clementine, Lucy & Eddie Grasso, Col Robens (Sydney SOE) and Deidre Herring (Wollongong SOE). The venue was St Christopher’s Cathedral, Manuka, Parish Centre, with the facility of the crypt under the Cathedral for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a sacred space set aside for prayer, reflection, intercession and adoration.

The course was part of the eight week Mission Formation School put on by the Global Holy Spirit with Mission Ministries, founded by Brian Welsh, with the blessing and support of the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Rev Francis Carroll.

The participants who attended came from Melbourne, Sydney, Armidale and Canberra - a wide area, considering the small number of participants.

All commented that the

course was a fresh challenge for them to grow in discipleship, to be creative, to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus, and to understand his method of teaching and forming his disciples. It was a time of deep encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist and a source of inner healing.

Some weeks after the course, two of the participants, together with Brian Welsh and Les Roberts, proceeded to the International Missionary outreach in England and Ireland to put into practice their new found formation in discipleship and evangelisation.

“Evangelisation is the Mission of the Church to tell the world the Truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ.”
(John Paul II – *The Church in Oceania*)

I Called You

by Clarissa Mascurine

The School Of Evangelisation held a Discipleship Course at St. Agatha’s Parish, Cranbourne in the last two weekends of April 2005, for a period of five days.

We, the participants, were divided into groups or Communities. Each Community learned to pray and support each other in every way. Looking back I am filled with deep feelings of gratitude to God that He chose me, (John 15:16) “You did not choose me, I chose you to go out and bear fruit.”

Each day of the course was an awakening to new challenges. Yet these did not remain challenges for long, for all too soon I became aware that I was in a safe, secure environment.

The faithfulness, sincerity and commitment of the team of leaders from the School of Evangelisation was inspirational. They tirelessly reached out to us in all our needs. In fact they seemed to be

able to help or get anything that we asked for. I remember that I needed a loaf of bread in the preparation for our community group’s preparation for Praise and Worship. In response to my request, in quick time I found not one but three loaves of bread on our table. This is only one example of many that revealed to me their spirit of service and love. This taught me that to be a disciple I must become a humble servant .

The course itself was so well programmed. It seemed to have met me just at the point that I was in my journey of faith and then helped me on. I feel convinced that this is what it did for the other members in my community group as well, for by the end of the course we had bonded together through sharing our faith and supporting each other.

I found this not to be just a course in which we were mere lis-

teners to the speakers. Instead we became actively involved through various dynamics set into the program. It was through participation in these dynamics that I felt touched in body, soul, mind and spirit. The realities of life in relation to the teachings of Jesus and His own life on earth were beautifully explored.

The Eucharist—the Real Presence of Jesus, is an awesome gift to us. The words of consecration used by the priest in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass hold a deeper meaning to me in relation to my own life. My prayer life has been enriched through my closer relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures. I believe that I have been richly blessed. Praise the Lord !!!!



SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION—PROGRAM 2005-2006

Date	Course Name	Location & Contact Details
August 13-14	New Life	Wollongong NSW—Paul (02) 4297 1570
August 27-28	Emmaus	Bairnsdale VIC—Cathy (03) 5174 3001
August 26-28 October 21-23	Formation of Disciples	Mill Park VIC—Gary (03) 8711 4690
September 10-11	Emmaus	Wagga Wagga NSW—Kay (02) 6933 1444
September 10-11	Emmaus	Wollongong NSW—Paul (02) 4297 1570
September 20-21	New Life	Clayton VIC—Cynthia (03) 9543 3228
October 8-9	Emmaus	Pymble NSW—Lucy (02) 9670 4440
October 10-13	History of Salvation	Cowwarr VIC—Cathy (03) 5174 3001
October 15-16	New Life	St Augustine's VIC—Gary (03) 8711 4690
October 22-23	Emmaus	Adelaide SA—Carmen (08) 8339 2573
November 4-6	Young People in the Bible	Phillip Island VIC—Anna (03) 9561 9069
November 8-11	Mary in the Scriptures	East Brunswick—Anna (03) 9561 9069
November 13-16	Moses Leadership Course	East Brunswick—Anna (03) 9561 9069
February 2006	Formation of Evangelisers	Mill Park VIC—Gary (03) 8711 4690

New Life South Australia

by Carmen Sylvester

Patrick Kelly made a pilgrimage to be the main presenter at the first New Life in SA. With 33 participants and the Holy Spirit so evidently present, the weekend was, by all accounts, a GREAT SUCCESS.

Participants commented on the power behind some of the dynamics that really kick started the New Life within. All the participants handed in such favorable evaluation sheets that the team members had to pinch themselves to see if this was a dream come true.

True to every course that the SOE runs, things were not all smooth sailing but also true to God's promise "I will be with you

always to the end of time," the Holy Spirit caused all things to fall into place. That is an incredible achievement when you consider that we lost one whole hour of teaching time on Sunday morning due to a car parking dilemma!

Thanks be to our awesome God who promises New Life, this course brought about a New Promise that 2005 will be a year of favor for South Australia.



Dates to put in your diaries:

Emmaus Course 22-23 October

Celebrate Emmanuel 20 November in the Rundle Mall.

Once a month, 10am—2.00pm Learning more about our faith and church teachings from noted speakers. Audio tapes followed by discussion and then a shared lunch. Please register your interest.

Contact Carmen for more information on any of the above:
(08) 8339 2573

God's Blessings



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SA - Adelaide	Carmen Sylvester	(08) 8339 2573
WA - Perth	Irene Piercy	(08) 9443 3686

The Witness

Donations Acknowledged

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

Dina Kritikos	VIC	40.00
Jesus Gospel Group		125.00
Anonymous		50.00

TOTAL 215.00

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

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

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

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Called and Gifted

This is a photo of the group who attended the 'Called and Gifted' workshop held in Wagga Wagga on the 8th and 9th April 2005. The workshop began with a light evening meal on Friday and concluded with the last session on Saturday afternoon. The group learned how to identify the personal gifts given by the Holy Spirit, to discover their own calling and how to answer that calling by spreading the gospel to others. It was an enjoyable weekend, good company, food and teachings



Gideon's Army Marches into Battle

by Len Forster

Thank you to school graduates and Witness readers throughout Australia for your generous response to the initiation of our Gideon's Army appeal.

Already the funds generated have made possible the start of the important and far reaching Parish Evangelisation Program in the Parishes of Mill Park and Frankston East. Funds received have also provided the much needed computer and LCD projector now being used by our National Coordinator, Pat Kelly, in his presentations to those who are important in the expansion

of the School activities.

You will remember that, like Gideon in the Bible, we sought 300 committed and far-sighted "soldiers" to be providers of the financial support of the important task of evangelisation asked of us in the Schools. This task is so vital to the spreading of the love of our Lord, Jesus and so vital also to reform our world into the beautiful kingdom God designed for us.

To this time we have 56 Gideon's Soldiers, a worthy start to our goal of the 300 as in the Bible account. With some groups

involved and further generous donations, \$7375 has been raised!

Membership Certificates and Prayer cards are being sent to current members. Bishop Joe Grech is offering a monthly Mass for all members and the Gideon's Army Newsletter will be prepared and despatched in September.

The second stage of our direct appeal letters will be sent out in the near future, so we ask and thankfully look forward to your continued generous response.

May the Lord shine His face upon you.



Appeal for new members for Gideon's Army

**Would you consider becoming a new member of the Gideon's Army appeal?
A further 244 'soldiers' are very much needed before the end of the year.**

All new Gideon's Army members will receive:

- **A monthly Mass offered up for you by Bishop Joe Grech**
- **A Membership Certificate**
- **A bi-annual Gideon's Army newsletter**
- **A beautiful prayer card with six points of the Kerygma**
- **We're working on more benefits!**

See page 11 to register

Eagles' Wings

In Isaiah (40:31) it says that "those who hope in the Lord ...will sprout wings like eagles." Well those who travel to different places for the School to teach courses sprout eagles wings, courtesy of Virgin and Qantas. This of course costs money. However most people have reward programs attached to their banking and credit cards that allow them to redeem points for Virgin or Qantas vouchers. May we suggest that one way to support the work of the School could be to donate these vouchers to the School to defray the cost of travel. Give it some thought as every little bit helps.



South Australia School of Evangelisation Presents: A Day Seminar Celebrating The Year of the Eucharist

by Carmen Sylvester

As the world mourned the loss of one of the greatest Pope's of our times, South Australian School of Evangelisation was in earnest preparation to present a one day seminar in solidarity with the sentiments of John Paul II that 2005 should honor in a special way the awesome mystery of the Eucharist : The True Bread from Heaven.

Mass readings for a week prior to the seminar held on Sunday 17th April were all taken from the Eucharist discourse of John 6.

If we had tried to prepare the hearts of the participants to receive the church teachings on the Source and Summit of our faith, we could not have done any better than that. BUT we can't take credit as no doubt it was all in God's plan.

Having realized that God has really gone all out to make this seminar a memorable event by placing his hand upon this work, it was no hard task for Sandra Bishop and myself to spend the week prior

to the seminar preparing our first ever Power point presentations. I suppose when you know nothing about the how and the why and what the heck to do with it, it was a



learning curve for both of us. Burning the midnight oil (more precisely the 2.00 & 3.00am) became a whole new reality.

The overall comment from the 30 participants was that the teachings truly came alive through the new technology. It would be remiss of me not to thank Jacob who so very generously purchased

all the hi- tech equipment and is giving the SA SOE first priority in using it. God's goodness has no bounds.

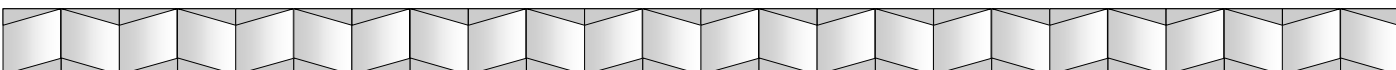
God even provided a beautiful day in which to enjoy this seminar. And enjoy it we did. It is always a great privilege and joy to bring others into a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist.

As it is only appropriate we started this seminar with a tribute to John Paul II who was our inspiration. His writings on the Eucharist are so profound that we could draw enormous wisdom from them.

I would like to thank all who attended this seminar, as their eagerness and willingness to learn more about the truths of our faith makes our work pure joy.

My sincere thanks to Sandra Bishop. Her hard work in bringing this together was unceasing and unrelenting in the pursuit of excellence.

Thanks also to the team who are always there willing to do



Regional Coordinators' Meeting, Bendigo

Pat Kelly

On Monday June 27th the School coordinators and team members from Sandhurst and Wagga Wagga diocese, along with Bishop Joe and National coordinator, Pat Kelly, met in Bendigo. Adelaide coordinator, Carmen Sylvester, couldn't make it because she was in Rome for the ICCRS leadership training seminar.

There are great things happening in these dioceses especially in the areas of healing ministry and the Catholics Returning Home Program. Some thoughts which came from the discussion, which could apply to an individual or parish as well as a

diocese, were these:

- ◆ If you want to evangelise, the first step is to bring together a few people and share the vision of what God can do if we step out in faith with the desireto proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.
- ◆ Call these people together for a limited time to focus on a particular outreach eg Catholics Returning Home or Alpha or a men's breakfast

or a New Life course.

- ◆ As the opportunity presents itself follow this up with formation in discipleship where people can be invited to a deeper level of commitment to evangelisation.

Many thanks to Bishop Joe for his encouragement and hospitality in opening his home to us for the meeting. Also to Denise Ilott for her hospitality in accommodating the visitors and organizing a lovely social evening together.

Mothers Prayers—United in Prayer we save our children

by Rosina Montegrando

Are you concerned about your children? Since the last article about Mothers Prayers was published in The Witness, many people have formed new groups and there have been some wonderful answers to prayer. God is honouring His promise "Ask and you shall receive."

In January I came to Melbourne and attended the Charismatic Conference. While at the conference I received a phone call from a very concerned mum in Brisbane whose sixteen year old daughter was under pressure to terminate her pregnancy. The mother writes:

Through God's Grace and guidance my daughter was given the strength, wisdom and courage to go forward with her pregnancy. My daughter has always known that abortion is an abhorrent act and upon learning of her pregnancy I felt that this would not be an issue for her. Even so I sensed and understood her despair, fear and confusion and wanted to protect her from anyone who might influence her in the wrong way.

My husband felt that she was too young and should terminate the pregnancy. I took her to the school counsellor and prayed silently while the options were explained to her. Arriving home, I found the Mothers Prayers newsletter and rang Rosa on her mobile. Rosa said that she would get prayer support for us from the people at the conference.

From this time forward it became apparent that God was

working in every area of our lives. The school continues to support our daughter. The relationship between my daughter and her father has grown and he has offered her his continued support (this is such a miracle) and I find her asking for his advice. I don't know how God's plan works but I do know that God will continue to guide us and that my daughter, through her daily prayer and bible reading cannot go wrong.

I wish to thank Mothers Prayers, Rosa and all the women who sent their prayer support through signing of a beautiful card. God bless you all, Helen.

Another mum, Jacquie, writes:

My daughter lost custody of her two children after a nasty custody battle. Her ex-husband beat her and abused her badly. She had a car accident and was in a lot of pain and on anti-depressants. Since I began attending Mothers Prayers she is no longer on anti-depressants and has regained access to her children. Things are going so much better for her. Thank God.

A few weeks ago she purchased a Praise and Worship CD. She enjoyed this CD so much that she wanted to play it in the car but did not have a CD player in the car. She said to God, "If you want me to play this CD in the car you will have to provide me with a player." A few days later as she was stopped at the lights, a man pulled up beside her, jumped out of the car, knocked on her window and offered her a CD player explaining that his

CD player had been stolen and the insurance had given him this one but it did not fit his car. When she asked how much he wanted he said, "Nothing it's yours," and drove off. God even cares about little things.



Veronica, the co-founder of Mothers Prayers is coming to Australia and will be giving talks in Parishes in Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Mothers Prayers is a movement of the Holy Spirit and has now spread to over 80 countries. Recently Veronica commissioned eight new coordinators for Russia.

Veronica is a down to earth mother and grandmother whom God has used to encourage people to pray for their children and surrender them to Jesus. She says God's in charge we are just His secretaries.

I believe that Mothers Prayers is a great evangelisation tool as it meets mothers at their point of need. People meet in small groups to pray and share their concerns in a confidential non judgemental environment.

For more information on Mothers Prayers, Veronica's Itinerary and how to start a group, phone Rosa Montegrando on: (07) 38861661 or email montegrando@hotmail.com

New Life: Brisbane

Fifteen people attended a New Life course at St Rita's, Victoria Point on the weekend of June 25-26. Brisbane co-ordinator, Elmer Guerra, is pastoral associate at the parish and all the participants were from the parish.

Many of the participants are active in the parish choir and have close ties with each other.

This is a good sign for the future as participants will be able to support and encourage one another. As one person put it, "We now start to pray together – to love, as we should – to follow the will of Jesus – to re-ignite the fire."

For many one of the most powerful moments in the course was when everyone stood in front

of the Blessed Sacrament and in obedience to the scriptures one by one publicly proclaimed Jesus as their Lord.

One fruit of the course was that there was a feeling in the group that it might be the time to re-activate the parish prayer group which has been in recess for some years.

NOVEMBER COURSES



Young People in the Bible

Retreat for 15-25 year olds

This course reviews some of the young people in the bible, the circumstances in which they lived, the challenges they encountered, the ways they dealt with them and the victories they had.

Objective: To present to today's generation of young people, 15-25, models of success and failure in following the way of God. A challenge will be presented to participants to choose for God.

Date: 4-6 November
7.30pm Friday—5pm Sunday

Location:

Coastal Discoveries Camp
Smiths Beach, Phillip Island

Cost: \$95

(includes meals Sat and Sun)
Parent permission required for under 18 year olds.

Mary in the Scriptures



The person and life of Mary of Nazareth, who is model and first amongst others as evangeliser, who in the power of the Holy Spirit brings forth THE Word and gives Him to the world

Objective: To discover the place and mission of Mary in God's overall plan of salvation. To provide an important key to the reading of Mary in the Bible, through such images as Star of Evangelisation, Woman of Faith, Greeting Card of Christ, as well as discussion of disputed doctrines concerning Mary.

Date: 8-11 November

Location: Our Lady Help of Christians, East Brunswick

Cost: \$80

Moses Leadership Course



A course about Christian Leadership which follows especially the pastoral journey of each Christian leader compared with the remarkable spiritual journey of Moses.

Objective: To present the journey of the Christian community which moves towards the Promised Land, with a focus on the pastoral journey of every leader and pastor of the Church. The journey takes participants through the Schools of Pharaoh, of Median and of the Desert. It includes an unveiling of the deep depression of Moses, his requests from God, his trials and discusses the qualities of his collaborators.

Date: 13-16 November

Location: Our Lady Help of Christians, East Brunswick

Cost: \$80

"The School of Evangelisation is taking seriously the Catholic Church's call for a New Evangelisation. It is equipping people, especially young people, with some important tools for making Jesus known and loved in our confusing times. I recommend this for your consideration."

Bishop Christopher Prowse.

I wish to attend the	Young People in the Bible Course <input type="checkbox"/> Mary in the Scriptures Course <input type="checkbox"/> Moses Leadership Course <input type="checkbox"/>	4-6 Nov \$95.00 8-11 Nov \$80.00 13-16 Nov \$80.00	I enclose 50% of the fee (min) as a deposit.
Title		Surname.....	
Address.....			
Phone Number.....		Parish.....	
Please send deposit, made payable to "School of Evangelisation" to: The Registration Secretary 11 Joyce Avenue ...		Special Needs.....	
		Please register by 1st November Enq: Anna on (03) 9561 9069	

SOE Parish Evangelisation Program—Mill Park

For some years, I used to help Fr Michael Shadbolt with the healing Mass and ministry each Sunday night at St. Kevin's Hampton Park. Many were healed and people flocked there for help. Fr Michael followed carefully our Lord's pattern of ministry. Our Lord preached the Good News and then healed people. Fr. Michael gave a powerful homily and during and after Mass there was healing prayer. All this was accompanied by anointed singing by fine choirs and groups. Continually we pondered, "Where do we go next?"

It was at the "Hearts on Fire" Congress at the Exhibition Buildings that I found what I was looking for. I saw the *Schools of Evangelisation* stand and spoke with Pat Kelly about the work of the Schools.

"This is where we go next," I thought, "this is what we are looking for." The Pope had called for a New Evangelisation, but more importantly, I sensed that the Holy Spirit was leading the church in this direction.

The healed people had to spread the Good News. How could they be helped to do this?

At the end of the year came a transfer to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mill Park, where Fr. Eugene Ahern had established "Cells of Evangelisation" – small groups of people reflecting on the gospel, sharing their lives and trying to

evangelise in their surroundings. These cells had been meeting for five years and were ready to go further on the path of evangelisation. So we decided that the Schools of Evangelisation were the ones to help us. We have had a series of information sessions with Gary Stephens and our first weekend retreat here at the parish. To the right are some pictures from some of the activities at the New Life weekend on 4th & 5th June 2005 where we had 50 participants.

Brilliant talks, punctuated by simple experiences and power point displays have made the message accessible to the simplest. We are going to continue on throughout the year with these weekend training days to form people in themselves and equip them with the skills to be evangelisers. There is no doubt a substantial group of trained people is needed to spread the Good News in Mill Park.

We hope to welcome more people into our small groups and cells, so that when they come to the Lord, they come to a community of faith as well.

I believe this is a work of the Lord and so it will certainly succeed. The Kingdom is coming and nothing can stop that. But we can be part of it or not. Here is a great way for parishioners to take the Good News to the world today.



If you would like the SOE to share our vision of Parish Evangelisation with your parish priest and pastoral committee, please contact Gary Stephens on (03) 8711 4690.

Do you have an evangelisation testimony you could share?

We are compiling a book of evangelisation testimonies and invite you to contribute your experiences.

The book will provide a practical and readable resource for graduates of the School and any enthusiastic evangeliser who wishes to be inspired and gain ideas for evangelisation.

Very importantly, when finished, it will provide us with excellent evidence of the fruits of the School of Evangelisation, as the

stories will all be from graduates.

Whether you feel you can write or not, you are encouraged to share your evangelisation story for publication in the book.

Stories should be up to 1000 words in length. They should be real life situations about incidents where evangelisation has occurred, hopefully with the result of conversion or a return to the practise of the faith.

Examples could be from

RCIA programs, Catholics Returning Home, Mothers' Prayers, parish evangelisation, Alpha and everyday occurrences. Whatever your niche is, whatever it is you do, please share it with us, for God's glory.

Email stories to comsoda@21century.com.au

or post to:

Adrian Commadeur
15 Holly Green Court
East Keilor 3033

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME PROGRAM—A GREAT SUCCESS!!! Anna Breheny

At St Leonard's Parish, Glen Waverley, Melbourne, we have recently completed our first Catholics Returning Home (CRH) Program, with wonderful results. A total of six participants completed the program and we have all spent a truly blessed time together.

Our little team of four – Jan, Margaret, Rhonda and Anna - has received indescribable joy through facilitating this program. We could rightly say this is a ministry of **extreme joy!** The training, the organising, the preparation meetings, the thrill of a new learning experience for us, the excitement of seeing all the people walk in the door on the first night, left us on such a high, that we often didn't get a wink of sleep on the nights the program was held!

Sharing the participants' experiences and reading the answers on their questionnaires about why they had come left us truly humbled. These wonderful people were searching for God and we had the privilege of being their initial point of contact with Him – we had the privilege of being the ones to tell them that God loves them, which was something many of them had never heard before. The fulfilment and joy are beyond words.

Some participants were existing parishioners who wished to learn more about their faith and they were indeed most welcome. Others were people who have been

separated from the church and its community for many years and it was wonderful for us to have met them and shared this journey with them.

All participants have been assured that this was only the beginning of their faith journey and their relationship with the Church.



They have been given several options regarding what they can do next to continue to grow their faith.

Some have enrolled in a *four week seminar* which the St Leonard's Prayer Group has structured especially for them, to guide them into a personal relationship with God and show them how to experience His power in their lives.

One participant has joined our *Mothers' Prayers* Group and another has joined the *RCIA* program, so that she can come fully into communion with the Catholic

Church and receive the Sacraments. This way, all participants have not been left on their own, but will continue to be assisted, guided and taught in the environment of a caring Christian community.

And the hand of God does indeed reach far! We recently had the wonderful news that one of our parishioners, after reading the article we placed in our church newsletter about CRH, remembered a friend in another state who wanted to come back to the church, but didn't know how to go about doing it. Our parishioner phoned a priest she knew in that state, who in turn contacted the friend, and she's now back in the church! We thank and praise God for the wonderful ways He works to bring His little lost lambs back home where they belong.

Our relationship with our new parishioners is by no means ended and we look forward to a continued friendship with them. The CRH program will be held each year at St Leonard's. Our dedicated and excited little team, gives thanks and glory to God for working through Sally Mews, Jan Heath and Kathy Roby to bring us the gift of the CRH program. Praise be to God.

For details about how to facilitate a CRH program in your parish, contact the Office for Spiritual Renewal on (07) 3224 3351 or email osr@bne.catholic.net.au

GIDEON'S ARMY

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK

Please enrol me/us in the new Gideon's Army: NAME (OR NAME OF GROUP):

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

Please find my annual contribution enclosed

OR Please forward National Bank deposit slip for one off annual contribution

OR I wish to contribute by _____ deposits of \$_____ each, please forward deposit slips.

Enquiries to Len Forster (03) 9802 3577