



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

The Witness

Catholic Schools of Evangelisation National Newsletter
May 2006



May the joy of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you this Easter season.
"Peace be with you
As the Father sent me so am I sending you
Receive the Holy Spirit"
Jn. 20: 19, 21, 22.



Changes to School Organisation

The National Co-Ordinators' Meeting at the end of 2005 recommended some adjustments to the organization of the School. It was felt that given Bishop Joe's commitments, both in his own diocese and to the wider Church nationally and internationally, that he was not able to attend to the hands on running of the School.

So that the organization of the School might reflect this reality it was recommended that Patrick Kelly take over the role of Director of the School. Bishop Joe was in full agreement with this decision and expressed the desire to continue his involvement with the School as Spiritual Director and adviser.

These changes really are only recognizing the situation which has existed over the last few years. These changes came into effect as of December last year.

Pat Kelly.

From Vision to Reality: First Parish School of Evangelisation is Born

In October 2004 the Melbourne School of Evangelisation was invited to present a vision to St Francis Parish in Mill Park. The vision presented tried to capture how St Francis could form a Parish Evangelisation Team which, with a Mission Mentality, could 1) evangelise and 2) train evangelisers.

Following the initial presentation to the Parish Council, several information sessions were delivered. These sessions helped to market the proposed program and also helped to instil enthusiasm and excitement at the prospect of a group of Parishioners who would be trained to respond to the call to Evangelise.

On the 4th of April, earlier this year this vision became a reality when the St Francis SOE was born.

Before I go on to share with you about the St Francis SOE, I want to give you some insight into this journey. There were over 20 days of training; many practise sessions, particularly around the outreach events to parents, and dozens of meetings. Following the initial Parish Presentation in October 2004, a Parish Evangelisation working group was formed headed by Trish Spiteri. Trish became instrumental in the success of the formation training

and the opening of the St Francis School.

Over a weekend in June 2005, a New Life course was delivered. This was followed in July with Emmaus. In August and October (two weekends) the "Formation of Disciples" course was held, and finally from February 11th to April 4th 2006 the Formation of Evangelisers was presented. The "Formation of Evangelisers" in the past would have been delivered over nine consecutive days, however with many parishioners having family and work commitments the course was delivered over a weekend, five consecutive Wednesday evenings and finally closing with a second weekend.

In Parallel with the training courses, other specific outreach training was delivered. There had been a realisation that whilst preparing children for Sacraments, the parents were captive audiences who could be targeted for outreach. In September 2005, an outreach evening to St Francis first Eucharist parents was delivered. This involved the use of Drama and Kerygmatic teaching. The evening was a major success and I must congratulate again the fifteen people who acted out the drama Your Child's Life – The "Bread of Life".

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The Witness

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

National Executive Committee:

Bishop Joe Grech — Spiritual Director
Patrick Kelly — Director
And all School Coordinators in Australia.

National Executive Sub-Committee:

Adrian Commadeur
Cathy McLure
Gary Stephens

Len Forster — Treasurer
Julianne Hoffard — Editor

Please direct all correspondence to:

**S.O.E.,
P.O. Box 168,
Wonthaggi 3995
Ph. 5672 2772**

email: pakell@bigpond.com.au

*Check out information about the
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CCR web page:*

[WWW.CCR.ORG.AU](http://www.ccr.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.

Deadline for the next issue of

The Witness
18th July 2006

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

School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Cry Out To The Holy Spirit

By Pat Kelly



Archbishop John Bathersby in July last year launched a prayer campaign for renewal in his archdiocese of Brisbane under the title “Come Holy Spirit – renew our Archdiocese”. He wrote “I invite all Catholics to join with me in praying for the renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the life and mission of our Archdiocese.” Archbishop Bathersby went on to say “Why can’t we literally storm heaven asking God through the power of the Holy Spirit to renew the Archdiocese, to unleash the Holy Spirit like a new Pentecost. This could happen I believe, if the hearts and minds of people believe in it and are open to the Holy Spirit’s movement.”

This appeal shouldn’t be restricted only to Brisbane; the sentiments expressed by Archbishop Bathersby apply to the whole Church. The whole Church needs to cry out to the Holy Spirit for renewal. We need to be crying out to the Holy Spirit for renewal. We need to renew our commitment to prayer and to evangelisation, especially parish evangelisation.

When I went to mass on Easter Sunday the church was completely packed with people, and that was with three extra masses over the Easter weekend. On a normal Sunday the church is half empty so we have to ask the question where are these crowds of people the rest of the year? The fact that they are in Church at Christmas and Easter means there is some spark of faith. Our challenge is to reach out to these uncommitted Catholics and gently fan that spark into a roaring flame of faith. As Pepe Prado puts it “to evangelise the baptised.”

I put before you the twin challenge of evangelisation and prayer.

In response to the challenge to evangelisation, try to do something in your own parish, especially to reach out to those who are on the fringe of parish life. And please don’t forget the School. It makes me sad when people are blessed by their participation in the courses the School offers and as a result become more committed and active in the life of their parish (wonderful!) but who then forget about the School and what it offers. If you have been blessed by our formation courses remember that there are other people in your parish who could be blessed too. Please see the School as a resource that you can use to help your parish, or group, to become more evangelistic by training more people to help with the work.

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CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES

Bishop Joe Grech: Spiritual Director of School of Evangelisation

We are called to be disciples of Jesus and not merely to be part of the crowd; following what the majority says or how the majority acts. **This entails three very specific directions.**

In the first place, to be a disciple means to follow Jesus every single moment of our lives.

My cousin is an expert in karate. In my second parish where I was serving as an assistant priest, I noticed many young people hanging around the church and school yard, doing nothing. I asked my cousin whether he would be prepared to start a karate class in the parish. The idea was to give these young people a venue where they could meet and make good use of their time.

After some months, my cousin asked me to visit the class. There were about fifty people of different ages. They were all talking and teasing each other. When my cousin entered the room they all fell silent. Then he went to the front of the room, stood still and all the people bowed to him. Then he started to give them instructions in Japanese and all would obey him. After the class finished, he came over to me and asked me what I thought. I told him that I was very impressed.

What really impressed me was that he spoke to them in a foreign language and they all obeyed him. Now they were going home and their parents would speak to them in English. Would they obey? Not very often. I asked him why were these students so eager to follow what he was asking them to do. He told me that the answer was very simple. They all wanted to be like him, to be able to obtain a black belt and therefore they were prepared to follow him in whatever he asked them to do. This is what discipleship means, to follow one master Jesus and no one or nothing else.

Secondly, to be a disciple of Jesus entails obedience to the direction, teachings, values and principles of Jesus Christ. This is a very hard word for many of us. We do not like to obey. We all like to command. However, Jesus did not become a human person like us to offer us a few suggestions. What he said was a command.

During the last supper, when he took the bread and said to his disciples, "This is my Body", he did not add that if they found it hard to believe or to understand then they did not need to take him seriously. In the same manner, when he took the chalice filled with wine and said to his disciples, "This is my Blood", he did not also say to them that it will be perfectly O.K. with him if they qualified what he had just been saying.

Jesus did not go through such a painful passion in

order to propose a do as you like way of living. He had one purpose, to make us understand where we came from, what our purpose in living this life is, and where our final destiny is going to be. We come from Him. We are living in this world, to make our society a much better place to live in based on the values and teaching of Jesus Christ. We are destined to live with our God for eternity. To achieve this, there is a specific way of acting and believing. To be a disciple of Jesus means to embrace totally and solely the way of acting and believing of Jesus Christ.

Finally, this entails a decision to change if and when needed, from our way of doing things to the ways of Jesus. This is what is meant by "repentance".

Repentance entails three basic steps:

Firstly, we need to be honest. We need to admit that there are certain areas in our lives that need to be changed. There are areas in our lives where we are still in control, where our God is a total stranger.

Secondly, with honesty, there is also the need to say that we need to change. To admit our need is the first step. This needs to be followed by a determined decision on our part that we do not want to go on living and acting in this way.

Thirdly, we are called to admit that by ourselves this course of action is too hard. We need God's help. This is where talking with someone for guidance and right direction is very important. Moreover, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a very powerful opportunity where we come before our God, to be honest, to decide to change and to ask for His help to put into practice our resolve.

God bless.

The School of Evangelisation
will present a

NEW LIFE COURSE

St. Peter's Hall, Clayton
(adjacent to St. Peter's School)

9am—5pm, 27th—28th May, 2006.

**Come and have a personal encounter with
the Risen Lord and receive a new infusion of
the Holy Spirit.**

The course includes 9 am Mass Saturday and 10 am
Mass Sunday. Cost: \$20 per day

Enquiries: Gary 87114690, Nan 95722464,
Cynthia 95433228.

SOUTH AFRICANS EMBRACE THE SCHOOLS



Participants in Teaching Course, Sydney.

A sincere THANK YOU for all your hard work in making us feel so loved and accepted and all those involved in the Melbourne SOE. All of you really showed us the true value of servanthood. We truly felt at home, among brothers and sisters who shared the same vision and mission mentality. No amount of money can repay your kind generosity and investment, not only in our lives, BUT ultimately in the lives of the Archdiocese of Cape Town, once we start with the establishing the SOE.

Basil Sampson.

Continued from p2 ...

Cry Out To The Holy Spirit

In response to the challenge to prayer please pray! We are always looking for more people to join our Eprayers Prayer Team. At the moment we have thirty-one people committed to pray either once a week (18) or once a month (13) for the needs of the School. If you would like to be part of our email prayer team contact me on: pakell@bigpond.net.au

PRAYERFIRE

(Archdiocese of Brisbane 2000)

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

Open our hearts and the hearts of all people to know You, the original heart on fire.

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

Fire us with your energy and passion for living the good news of Jesus in our homes, workplaces and society.

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

Give us courage to face the challenge of the Gospel to our ways of thinking, being and acting.

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

Unite us with the great company of saints strengthening and sustaining our zeal for the life and mission of our Church in this time and place.

HOLY SPIRIT OF FIRE

Set our hearts on fire.

Amen

Among the twenty-two participants of the New Life at East Keilor, were guests from South Africa. Ordained and permanent married deacons, Basil Sampson and Piet Philander, learnt about the School of Evangelisation in Melbourne via the internet. They obtained sponsorship funds to enable them to fly from Cape Town via Singapore, to Melbourne. Long time leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, they have been involved in establishing, with approval of relevant Church authority, an Office of Evangelisation. They were searching for a way of putting on a solid formation course. They found it in Melbourne.

The New Life course took place on 18th & 19th March 2006 at East Keilor. Following approval of the St Peter's Parish Pastoral Team, it was planned to coincide with the two weeks stay of our visitors. Prior to the course letters and flyers were sent to every prayer group in the area, and all the parishes in the Moonee Ponds Deanery. In addition, Fr Denis Stanley, PP at St Peter's, East Keilor, and Fr Franco Cavarra, of St Christopher's, Airport West approved a short invitation after communion at their parish masses. John and Maria Luff spoke at St Peter's and Adrian Commadeur and Sam Giudice spoke at St Christopher's. About twenty personal invitations were also sent out to St Peter's parishioners. Of these some in fact responded positively.

The reaction of the participants to the talks, the dynamics, the testimonies and the prayerful reflections were quite wonderful. They all took part without hesitation, and the feeling during the weekend was one of 'family'. As the teachers taught and the participants shared among themselves, they felt encouraged and inspired. One person could not make the second day and said she did not want to miss anything next time.

Basil and Piet enjoyed the course as well as the visits to Mill Park, where the Formation of Evangelisers course was in progress. They shared with priests and lay people about the effects of the courses on the participants and learnt how much more confident they had become, and no longer felt incapable of sharing the gospel with others. They visited Bishop Joe Grech at Bendigo, they journeyed to Wodonga for sharing with the team there and railed to Sydney where they attended a two-day teaching course conducted in Paramatta organised for Charismatic Renewal by Lucy and Eddie Grasso.

It is hoped that the New Life graduates, tutored by Maria Luff, Sam and Jo Giudice and Adrian Commadeur, will be gathered again soon for the second course of the formation towards evangelisation, the Emmaus course.

Adrian Commadeur.

"Alive in Christ" Seminar, Gladstone, Queensland

It is with great pleasure that I write this article. Star of the Sea Parish is overwhelmed with the quality of the 'School of Evangelisation' and the team who came to present the 'Alive in Christ' Seminar. Our sincere thanks go to Pat Kelly, Gary Cox, Ferdi Sedhoff and Brad & Jane Wiedersehn. These people by their very lives witnessed their love and commitment to spreading the Good News, as well as by their coming, the presentations and the dynamics used to relate the message.

It was a very practical seminar which still has the people talking about it to others and asking when are we going to

have the 'Emmaus' weekend.

About fifty people attended throughout the duration of the weekend. The people were given the opportunity to encounter the person of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Rockhampton Diocese's theme for 2006 is 'Personal Faith in Jesus'. Star of the Sea Parish, Gladstone, staying with this theme decided to have this weekend as part of our Lenten journey to assist us in our mission to be bearers of 'Good News'.

The weekend was very affirming in what we are trying to achieve in our parish. We still have a long way to go in reach-

ing out to others, especially to those who no longer journey with us as a community, but there is great hope when people are touched by the Lord and have a desire to tell others. This weekend was very timely as we are having a Mission with Fr. John Rea sm. in July and August and his recommendations are to begin with visitations to all Catholic homes with invitations to come to the mission.

Please pray for us that the flame will not go out in the hearts of the people, who have received this great blessing.

Your friend in Christ
Colleen Mullins
[Adult Faith Coordinator]

Continued from page 1... **From Vision To Reality**

The day before closing the Formation of Evangelisers course (and indeed the whole program) on the 3rd April, St Francis (with support from the Melbourne SOE) delivered a successful outreach event to over eighty parents of children who were in preparation for Reconciliation and Confirmation. The outreach event itself took the form of welcoming, serving, drama (resurrection of Lazarus), Kerygmatic teaching and personal testimony. Many of the skills developed during the Formation of Evangelisers course were put to use during this event.

Attendances were good for all courses and indeed over twenty-five parishioners completed the whole program. The St Francis SOE was formed, Trish Spiteri was nominated as co-ordinator and a core team of five parishioners will work closely with Trish as St Francis SOE takes large steps of faith. St Francis SOE is planning to deliver the New Life course later in the year. Teacher training sessions, reunion days and planning meetings are to follow, but the vision is alive and well. We are on this road together and the Melbourne School and the St Francis Parish School will discover the Lords blessings as we continue to journey together. Thank you Jesus.

Note: The Melbourne School are now working with another Melbourne Parish who desire the same. The whole program has been booked and our work continues.....

Gary Stephens,
Melbourne SOE Coordinator.

HOLY SPIRIT DAY – ADELAIDE

Our program this year started with a BIG BANG by the Power of the Holy Spirit. The third person of the Trinity is always our principle guest at the Holy Spirit days. This time Allan Panozza also joined us to share of his wisdom, when he graciously accepted to fly to Adelaide in between his many pressing engagements.

On the 25th March about 50 people gathered at the Parish of Christ the King in Lockleys to hear Allan speak to us about the difference that the Holy Spirit can make to our lives both spiritual and emotionally.

It was edifying to see how well the audience connected with this man of God who shared some profound truths about our Catholic faith in such a gentle way that even the younger people and non Catholics responded with enthusiasm.

It seems that everything we try here in Adelaide is always preceded by many obstacles and all we can say is Praise God and just trust that God will come through for us. Of course He always does and always pours out His abundant blessings on the people who choose to respond to His call. He did so at the Holy Spirit day.

We would like to remind you that the **next Holy Spirit Day** will be on the **29th July 2006**. Our speaker will be Sr Majella Bollen from Melbourne. Sr Majella has a beautiful ministry with young people and also ministers to the Italian Community.

In **June** we shall be conducting **"Formation of Disciples" Course over two weekends**.

Easter Blessings and Happy Pentecost
Carmen Sylvester.

REDLANDS EASTER FESTIVAL

Easter Monday dawned the day of The Redlands Easter Festival, a day of family activities in a Christian setting, all inclusive from face painting, merry-go-rounds up through the exhilarating ride of the tilt-a-whirl, and a smorgasbord of luncheon delights, all free and in a setting of gospel music, or taking in a story or two, or just picking up on what any of the local churches have on offer, or the many programs that circulate the district from time to time.

Very popular was the Healing Prayer Tent, and the one that the School of Evangelisation was involved in - the Tent of Promise. In this we, the SOE, was able to support the local Catholic Church of St. Rita's, with their evangelizing efforts to help man the Tent of Promise.

This gave them the opportunity to put into practice the enthusiasms which they drew from the New Life course that the school ran there late last year.

The morning started with nervous prayer, and unsettled expectation, but with the comfort of our presence and a fervent reliance on the Holy Spirit it wasn't long before all were aglow from the opportunities arriving from sharing their faith, while leading others through a faith experience, as they each led their small groups through the pictorially illustrated Panorama of the Bible, from creation to revelation. This proved very helpful to us all, as we were able to use the Panorama to help us tell the story, and then blend in our own lived faith experiences, into our talk.

There was quite a number of people who gave a commitment to Jesus Christ and many again were helped along the way by the interfacing of The Holy Spirit's work through words while leading, and the sharing of our faith stories and experiences.

The day did help unravel some of the myths that surround us all, such as "we just couldn't do that," "we can't reach out to someone we don't know and talk to them about God".

The day was organized by the various Christian Churches in the area, together with the generous support of the local council. The Redlands Shire Council together with many of the local business houses and the Churches themselves.

Gary Cox,
SOE, Brisbane.

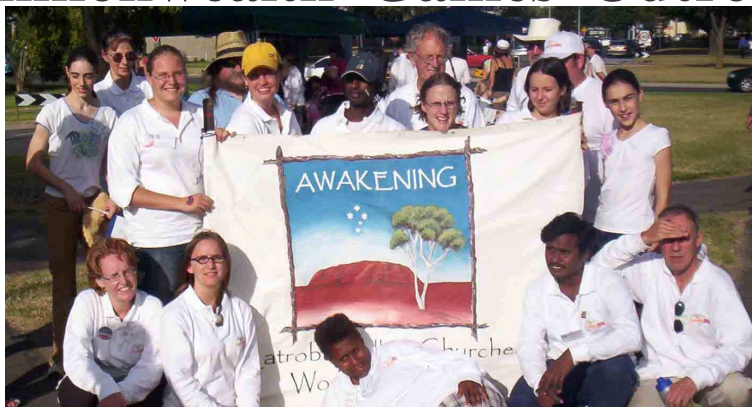


Commonwealth Games Outreach



The Awakening team with the help of volunteers from Latrobe Valley Churches presented various outreach activities at the Live Site at Moe during the Commonwealth Games. 31,000 people attended the Live Site over the 12 days. The free activities were a real hit with the kids. I spent one very busy, enjoyable afternoon helping kids decorate their handmade drums, making animals etc. out of balloons and painting faces and arms for very happy kids and grateful parents. It was all done under the banner of the Combined Churches of the Latrobe Valley.

On the Monday two of our graduates Maria Hague and Elsie Vonk entertained the crowd with the beautiful singing of the Combined Churches Choir. This choir regularly sings in shopping centres, carols by candlelight etc with a mixture of Christian and secular songs.



One spectator said they sounded like angels and the smiles on their faces were a delight.

Julianne and Sam Hoffard opened their home for two months to two of the young men who had come from India and Indonesia, who were working at the Live Site as part of their training for Fusion's Youth and Community Work Diploma. Both these young men attended the prayer group and inspired us with their desire to help their people.

St. Kieran's parish very generously provided their facilities to the many volunteers and members of Fusion who worked tirelessly to offer this low key evangelisation.

Opportunities for evangelisation can present themselves in lots of places and often when we join together with others so much more can be achieved.

Cathy McLure

SHARE YOUR FAITH SEMINAR – ADELAIDE

We have seen quite a number of firsts for the School this year; the first Parish School established, the first course in Rockhampton diocese and now the first tryout of our revamped “Share Your Faith” course.

Previously a one day (or several evenings) version of the course had been conducted based on key talks from the Formation of Evangelisers (Paul) course. Specifically it focused on the Kerygma and Testimony. This new course is different in that it also incorporates aspects drawn from the “Becoming a Contagious Christian” seminar, * made popular through the Willow Creek Association in the USA. This seminar especially focuses on relational evangelisation.



The course was held in Dulwich Parish on April 22nd-23rd and the presenters are grateful for the Adelaide team for being guinea pigs for the new seminar. The feedback we received will be very helpful to Carmen Sylvester and myself as we continue to develop the course.

One of the most popular

features of the seminar was the “Styles of Evangelisation” questionnaire. This questionnaire helps participants to identify their own particular style of evangelisation based on their own personality. The styles identified in the seminar are: Confrontational (or Direct), Intellectual, Testimonial, Interpersonal, Invitational and Service. By recognizing their own style participants are encouraged to see that it is OK to be who they are and to see opportunities to evangelise in a way that suits their own personality.

This is a great addition to the material from the Formation of Evangelisers course. The Formation of Evangelisers (Paul) course concentrates on the Direct and Testimonial style of

evangelisation and many people who have other styles felt that if this is what evangelisation is about, (eg door knocking) then it wasn't for them.

This seminar helps people to see that EVERYONE is called to evangelise but not everyone is called to evangelise in the same way. Of course the ideal is for people to work together as a team (Parish Evangelisation!) so that each person's gifts complement the gifts of the others in the team.

If your experience of the Evangelisation (Paul) course wasn't positive, or if it's a long time since you did the course or if you have been put off by the length of the course this seminar is a way ahead.

Pat Kelly

* “Becoming a Contagious Christian Leader's Guide.” by Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel & Bill Hybels. Zondervan Publishing; Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1995.

NEW LIFE IN WAGGA WAGGA



The New Life Course was a first for Wagga SOE. Pat Kelly, Fr. Gerard Ryan & Sr. Knagge taught the course. We had twenty participants who attended and all loved the teachings and the dynamics.

The SOE team thought it was a great introductory course with clear simple teachings spread over the two days. Even though many of the participants had done more advance courses they were still enthused with the weekend's teachings being so easy to listen too and follow. The team came away renewed and uplifted in spirit.

We had some first time participants who had not done a course before. It was great to see how quickly they got a grasp on the readings, teachings and dynamics. We thank Pat Kelly for giving up his weekend for us, for his teachings and spending time with the team. It is much appreciated.

God bless, Kay.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD


The greatest challenge confronting us today is to communicate the Word of God to others with conviction and without compromise. Jesus revealed himself to others and could say "Learn from me." His words were in agreement with his actions. How do we go about teaching others and sharing our faith as Jesus commissioned us to do?

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teach** them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."* - Matt 28:18-20

The Sydney School of Evangelisation Team conducted a 'Teacher Training Seminar' hosted by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Parramatta Diocese Service Team on 25th and 26th March, 2006, held at St Margaret Mary's Parish Hall, Merrylands. Thirty Prayer Group members from various Dioceses, Wollongong, Parramatta, Broken Bay, and Sydney attended this seminar, including two married Deacons from South Africa, Piet Philander and Basil Sampson. Piet and Basil were sent to Melbourne with a mission by the Bishop of Cape Town to learn about the School of Evangelisation and its methods of how Parishes can be helped in the formation of Evangelisation. Through the courses they attended in Melbourne and Sydney they realised the great potential the School of Evangelisation has to offer for their mission in setting up beacons of Evangelisation in Parishes of their Diocese. They were able to take back with them plenty of resources.

The aim of the Teacher Training Seminar is as follows: (1) To equip and improve the ability of the participants to give a memorable and effective teaching. (2) Develop skills and gain confidence in the preparation and presentation of teachings and testimonies using the Scriptures. (3) To prepare a teaching based on an effective technique and structure that would make the talk interesting, informative, formative and transforming.

LENDING LIBRARY



The topics of the Teacher Training Seminar include - 'The Call to teach and evangelise'; 'What do we talk about'; 'Making the talk more interesting'; 'Secrets of Giving a Good

Testimony'; 'Structure of an effective talk'; 'Presentation, Techniques and a Sample Talk'; 'Spirituality of the Speaker'.

The seminar included group activities where participants contributed by putting the input they received into practice. Some of the activities included listing of Paul's qualities of a good preacher and teacher, applying some topics and methods learnt and presenting them to the group, preparing and presenting a testimony in the group, preparing a talk and the opportunity to submit the talk to be critiqued by the team. Research Resources and how to use them were also made available.

Some of the comments from the participants were that the seminar was nourishing and how it helped them to gain knowledge, ideas and input to apply to make their teachings meaningful. They gained confidence and in the words of a participant: "I have been uplifted and encouraged to give teachings. I feel much more prepared to step out in faith in this area."

The comment was also made that this Seminar is not only helpful for Prayer Group teachers and future prospective teachers, but for anyone



who wants to assist in the task of proclaiming the Good News. It is a practical guide to those who are zealous to preach the Gospel for the conversion of sinners; to help in the spiritual growth of believers and to enrich those who are fervent in their faith. It is very helpful to those who are teaching the Catholic faith eg. Catechists, RCIA presenters, Bible study groups or any other group in a Parish, Prayer Group or Community.

"As for you, my dear son, take strength from the grace which is in Christ Jesus.

Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses so that they in turn will be able to teach others."
- 2 Tim 2:1-2

Lucy Grasso - Co-ordinator

THE BEAUTY OF SCRIPTURE



By Eddie Grasso

When was the last time you read a book so good and interesting that you wanted to read it again and again? A friend told me that she read the book 'Titanic' three or four times. Not only that, she said she saw the movie several times. She told me she also bought the video. Keen, don't you think?

Who read the book about the Titanic? Now I want to tell you about my love for a book which is much more interesting than the Titanic. In fact a few movies have been produced about parts of this book. One of the producers of such movies was Cecile B. DeMille - Gussed what it is? - Yes you got it right - The Ten Commandments. But the movie, although well produced and well acted does not really do justice to the book from where it was taken. Yes! You guessed it again -The Bible.

It is so interesting and so much on demand, that besides the fact that the Old Testament has been written thousands of years ago and the New Testament two thousand years ago it has been translated in nearly every language. Not only that, millions upon millions of copies have been sold and distributed all around the World. People have staked their lives or a long stretch in prison, especially in communist countries for the sake of spreading the Word of God through the Bible.

Why is the Bible so interesting? It is the story of a nation, in fact the story of humanity from beginning to end. When I was at school I used to learn Bible History; that is what we used to call it. We had to read stories from it sort of by force. I used to find it boring and when I left school I put this bible history book in a cupboard and never

saw it again until much later.

Some thirty five years ago a friend invited me to a prayer meeting and out of curiosity I went. Some people read parts of it and I started to listen to more talks about these stories in the Bible. I also heard people witnessing how interesting and good this Book is and how it changed their lives because it gave them a meaning in life. Some also witnessed that certain problems they encountered were solved because they referred to the Bible and followed what it says.

After attending a few prayer meetings I started to pray to Jesus to get to know him better and somehow I started to get the urge to read a bit from the Bible. The more I read the more it became interesting because I was realising that I was reading my story - the story of my salvation. Scripture tells me, in the Gospel of John 14:6 that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. I reasoned that if I want these three beautiful things in my life I have to get to know who this Jesus is, what he did, where he lived, what he taught and other interesting things about him.

Besides after I became a bit more familiar with it, I realised also that the Bible is the album of my family and friends. I found that Abraham is my father, he tells me to have absolute faith in God. Moses shows me how to be a good leader and trust in God. He shows me how to pray to God and intercede for others. John the Baptist is a true friend because he taught me that by repenting I will be preparing the way to meet Jesus. And what a brother this Jesus is, he gave his life for me so that I can join my Father in heaven. This

Father of mine is brilliant, he is incredible; you know what he did? He sent his only Son to die for me on the cross so that I can be saved.

Mary is another close relative, she is my mother, she shows me how to say 'yes' to Jesus when he asks me to do something for him. In fact I got to talk about him with people at every opportunity. I tell them how much he cares for them and loves them that if they ask him in sincere prayer for something he will give it to them. In the Gospel of Matthew ch 7:7-8 Jesus tells us '**Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him**'. All he wants from us is that we pray with faith and he will do the rest. And guess what! I learned from Scripture that Jesus never breaks his promise.

Also the Bible is a book of instructions and not to be reckoned with. It reminds me that all that is written in it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. (See 2 Tm 3:16-17)

I find the Bible so exiting that I read it every day. Not only that, it has become the book of life, in fact it has become my life. I also use it as a 'reference' book to guide me along my life's journey, something like my spiritual road-map. So you see the Bible is an essential book of how to live in peace and harmony with God, with oneself, with everybody, and all creation. Continued page 11

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL: NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL:

The CCR will be holding the bi-annual National Training School in Canberra from the 26th-30th June at the Australian National University. Damian Stayne (UK) will conduct an extended School of Charisms during that week.

If you missed Damien in Melbourne in August 2005 don't miss this new opportunity to receive inspired teaching and "hands-on" experience of the Gifts of the Spirit.

The Charism School workshops focus both on what the Bible teaches and what the Church teaches about charisms, and the importance of the gift of faith which is needed for them.

In the last three years over 16,000 people throughout Europe and Africa have witnessed to receiving physical healing through the ministry of Cor et Lumen Christi Community (founded by Damian Stayne).

People regularly testify to the healing of their eyesight, deafness, being freed from crutches, paralysis and incurable and inoperable conditions, as God confirms His word and that Jesus is Alive!

Enquiries contact: 03 9629 2544 or 02 9810 2499

2007 JANUARY CONFERENCE

The 2007 January conference will feature Bishop Joe Grech, Dr John Bonnici (Malta) and Michelle and Peter Moran (UK).

It will be held from Monday 15th to Friday 19th January at Our Lady Help of Christians in East Brunswick.

Three night sessions will take place in three regional churches where three Mission Outreaches will be conducted. Each speaker will minister in a different church each night.

BE A SOLDIER FOR GOD !

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

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!



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

GIDEON'S ARMY

Please enrol me/us in Gideon's Army:

NAME (or NAME OF GROUP).....

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

Please find my annual contribution of \$100 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.

Thank you for filling out this form!

Please return it to the following address:

**GIDEON'S ARMY
School of Evangelisation
P.O. Box 168
Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995**

**Enquiries: Jacinta Gunn
ph. (03) 5998 7859**

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2006-07

Date	Course Name	Location	Contact Details
8 th —10 th May 06	FORMATION IN GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT	Canberra, ACT.	Les: 02 6254 5977
27 th —28 th May 06	NEW LIFE	Clayton, Vic.	Gary: 03 8711 4690
10 th —12 th & 17 th —18 th June 06	FORMATION OF DISCIPLES	Adelaide, S.A.	Carmen: 08 8339 2573
22 nd —23 rd July 06	EMMAUS	Clayton, Vic.	Gary: 03 8711 4690
29 th —30 th July 06	NEW LIFE	KooWeeRup, Vic.	Cathy 035174 3001
8 th —10 th Sept. 06	MARY	Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.	Kay: 02 6933 1444
9 th —10 th & 16 th —17 th Sept.06	FORMATION OF DISCIPLES	Bairnsdale, Vic.	Cathy: 03 8711 4690
15 th —17 th Sept. & 20 th —22 nd Oct. 06	FORMATION OF DISCIPLES	Clayton, Vic.	Gary: 03 8711 4690
13 th —14 th Oct. 06	SHARE YOUR FAITH	East Brunswick, Vic.	Adrian: 03 9337 2051
26 th —29 th Oct. 06	MARY	New Zealand	Adrian: 03 9337 2051
2 nd —5 th Nov. 06	MOSES	New Zealand	Adrian: 03 9337 2051
4 th —7 th Nov. & 11 th —12 th Nov. 06	FORMATION OF EVANGELISERS	Narre Warren, Vic	Cathy: 03 8711 4690
19 th —21 st April & 1 st —3 rd June 07	FORMATION OF EVANGELISERS	Clayton, Vic.	Gary: 03 8711 4690

Catholics Returning Home *By Jacinta Gunn*

During November and December 2005, we ran a successful Catholics Returning Home Program in Cranbourne. Therese Hummel and myself were inspired at the Melbourne CCR conference in January 2005 to attempt to run this program in our parish. Our parish priest, Fr Wise supported this idea. Fr Wise suggested Joe Kelly as a third person for our team. The three of us then met regularly to pray and prepare material for the course. We advertised in the primary schools and secondary college in Cranbourne for 4 weeks before the course began. We also advertised in the local paper. We asked prayer group members to pray for us.

There were 4 participants for

our course and each one benefited from the course and returned to practicing their faith. We had guest speakers to talk about the topics of Mass, Reconciliation and 'Changes in the Church'. This is the comment from one of the participants. "I have returned to regularly attending and receiving Holy Communion. My soul is finding greater peace."

Therese, Joe and I also found conducting this course rewarding. It was a pleasure to see the participants rediscover their faith in God and the Church.

Enquiries:
RJMKGUNN@DODO.COM.AU
 or goto <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/crh/>

Continued from p9

The BEAUTY of SCRIPTURE

Don't let your Bible gather dust, read from it daily. See what God is revealing to you. What does he want you to do with your life, listen to him through the words in Scripture and when you find out what he wants of you, obey him gladly, do not find excuses. It is the only worthwhile book to possess. Make it your 'reference' book for your good living. Treasure it, treat it with the utmost respect because it is the 'Word' of God.

On the first page of my Bible I wrote my testimony ... This is the book of 'INSTRUCTIONS' on how to live a healthy spiritual life - in fact -

'THIS BOOK IS MY LIFE.'

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understand.

In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3: 5-6.

Congratulations

Elmer and Emma Guerra on the



5th April, 2006 • 8 lbs., (3.63 kg.)

of your son **Robert Steven**. Brother
for Daniel, Alexandra and Melissa.

NEW FACES - OLD FACES

In this issue we welcome some new people to the work of the School.

JACINTA GUNN from Blind Bight (on Westernport Bay) who will be looking after the Gideon's Army project.

JULIANNE HOFFARD from Traralgon who is the new editor of the Witness.

JIVRAJ NAZARETH from Mt Waveley who will be looking after the School database.

Special thank you to **John and Anna Brehoney** for all the work they did as secretary and Witness editor, respectively. We very much appreciated your commitment and love for evangelisation.

Please keep Len Forster (our Treasurer) and Nan Deakin in your prayers. They have had health problems in the last few months but please God they will soon be back to fighting strength.

Pat Kelly.