



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

The Witness

Catholic Schools of Evangelisation National Newsletter
December, 2006

Creative Evangelisation

By Cathy McLure

Having attended the "Formation in Creative Evangelisation" course recently, three quotes come to mind:

Pope Paul VI, "*Many psychologists and sociologists express the view that modern man has passed beyond the civilisation of the word, which is now ineffective and useless, and today he lives in the civilisation of the image*" Evangelii Nuntiandi 42

Pope John Paul II, "*Look to the future with commitment to a New Evangelisation, one that is new in its ferveur, new in its methods, and new in its expres-*

sion." Haiti 1983

St Francis, as quoted by Bishop Prowse on his visit to the course, "*Preach the Gospel always even if sometimes you have to use words.*"

During these intensive five days we certainly learnt many new methods to transmit the Gospel message to a world that has passed beyond listening to words alone. Monica pointed out that Jesus used everything around him and we should do the same.

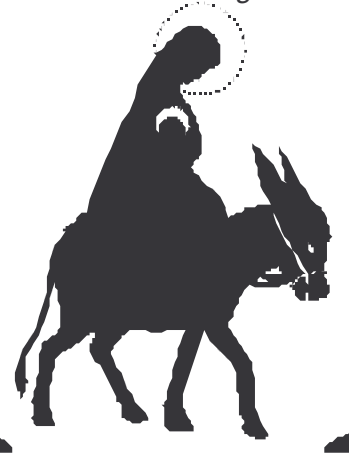
On day one we discovered how simple and effective it is proclaim the Gospel in a new way by the use of reading it in parts, using still frames, mime or drama. People have become so used to many of the gospel stories that they switch off. Doing something different captures their attention. **The use of humour and modern day settings can really bring the parables to life such as the Good Samaritan becoming the Good Punk Rocker.**

On day two we learnt to add sign language to songs to make them more meaningful. I was initially unsure of the value of learning sign language until I saw it beautifully presented by Monica and I was well and truly won over. **Sign language has the ability to bypass the head and peoples defenses and go straight to the heart.**

By days end we had learnt to

Rejoice!

Our Saviour is born.
The SOE teams wish all our readers a happy and holy Christmas. May the Lord bless you in your efforts to show others that Jesus is alive and lives among us.



use sign language with seven songs.

Day three was time to learn music and dance. I realized that this is my 'thing.' **To express what's inside not only with words but also with facial expression and body language is a powerful means of communication.** Dance can be strong or soft.

Two of the dances we learnt for use in the outreach events were to "Shine Jesus Shine" and "Searching for Gold," one very joyful and one very moving. We discovered that there are 27 examples of dances in the bible.

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Above: Reno Tanfara - in action.

The Witness

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

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

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
31st March 2007**

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

School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

FAREWELL TO GARY STEPHENS

We are very sad to be losing Gary Stephens, the co-ordinator of the Melbourne School. Gary and his wife, Joanne, have decided to return to England with their family after five years in Australia. Gary came to this country with the firm conviction that the Lord had a job for him to do in Australia. I believe that this has been proved to be the case. In his time here Gary has built a strong Melbourne team, he has worked tirelessly in developing a Parish School in Mill Park and he has helped the School to become far more professional in its approach to the Archdiocese of Melbourne and to the different parishes. His time here finished on a high note with the success of the Formation in Creative Evangelisation course and the outreaches that were part of this course.

We will miss Gary and we know that the Lord will continue to use him as an evangeliser, teacher and leader on his return to England.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Co-ordinators of the various Schools of Evangelisation met in Melbourne in November for their six monthly meeting. As is always the case with these meetings there was good news and bad news.

The bad news was the folding of the Canberra-Goulburn School. It was felt that at this time the interest wasn't there to maintain an active School. Many thanks to Les Roberts, Ann Clementine and the others in Canberra who have worked hard to promote the work of evangelisation. These efforts will bear fruit in the years to come, nothing we do for the Lord is ever wasted. God will use their generous efforts for his glory.

The good news was the continued growth of the Parish Schools of Evangelisation. At our last meeting, in May, there was one Parish School at Mill Park. In the last six months four more parishes (in Brisbane, Parramatta, Broken Bay and Newcastle) have decided to commit themselves to the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program. This is tremendously exciting news and sets the scene for a great year in 2007.

Congratulations — Anna & John Breheny



Above: **James with his doting sisters, Carlie (10 yrs.) & Rebecca (13 yrs.)**

of Glen Waverly on the arrival of your little boy James Robert.

We pray James will bring your family much joy and many blessings.

(Anna and John were the previous editor and secretary of Witness.)

FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

By Bishop Joe Grech.

Recently I was particularly struck by a verse from the prophet Micah which exclaims, *"You Bethlehem, Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel."* (Micah 5:1)

From the very least God will produce marvellous deeds. With God, the bigger something is does not necessarily mean that it is always the best way to achieve things. It is rather the contrary. With God every person no matter what state of life or profession he or she possesses can be the instrument of powerful and life changing situations. Paul realised this and he tells the Christians of Corinth,

"Consider brothers how you were called, not many of you are wise by human standards, not many influential, not many from noble families. No, God chose those who by human standards are fools to shame the wise, he chose those who by human standards are weak to shame the strong, those who by human standards are common and contemptible - indeed those who count for nothing - to reduce to nothing all those who do count for something." (1Cor 1:26-28)

Yes we can all do great things. During this week I received by email a description of an incident that happened around the time of Christmas. On the last day before Christmas this lady hurried to go to the supermarket to buy the remaining gifts that she did not manage to buy earlier. When she arrived at the supermarket and saw all the people hurrying to do their shopping she started to complain, "It is going to take forever here and I still have so much to do. Christmas is getting more annoying every year with all the shopping that needs to be done. I wish I could simply go to sleep and wake up when Christmas is over."

She made her way to the toy section and at one stage noticed a five year old boy pressing a doll tightly against his chest. Suddenly this little boy said to his grandmother who was standing next to him, "Granny are you sure that I don't have enough money to buy this doll?" "No my dear you do not have enough money". After a while the grandmother asked the little boy to wait for her at that place because she needed to buy something from another part of the store.

When the grandmother left, this

woman approached the boy and asked him why did he desire to buy the doll. "Well" the boy replied, "It is the doll that my sister loved most and wanted so much for Christmas. She was sure that she would get this present. "Maybe she would still get it" the woman replied. The boy looked at her with very sad eyes and said, "No, I have to give the doll to my mother so that she can give it to her when she goes where she is. You see, my sister has gone to be with God. Daddy says that mummy will also go to see God very soon, so I thought that she could take the doll with her to give it to my sister."

The woman's heart stopped and the boy continued, "I told Daddy to tell Mummy not to go yet till I come back from the supermarket. I also want Mummy to take this photo of me with her so that she would not forget me. I love my Mummy and I wish she didn't have to leave me but Daddy says she has to go to be with my sister." You can imagine how this woman was feeling.

She said to the boy, "Let me see how much money you have just in case you have enough." As the boy started to count the money that he had, the woman added some of her own. At the end the boy realised that he had enough money to buy the doll and he even had some left over. The little boy said, "Thank you God for giving me enough money. I also wanted to buy Mummy a white rose. She likes roses and now I can do it."

The woman left the child and continued to do her shopping. However she could not forget the little boy. Then she remembered that two days previously the local paper reported that a terrible traffic accident occurred in which a young girl had died and whose mother was in a critical condition. After a couple of days she also heard that the mother had died. She went to the funeral service and when she looked at the coffin there was the mother holding a beautiful white rose in her hand with the photo of the little boy and the doll placed over her chest.

Never underestimate the good that we can do by a simple gesture or word - Christmas means that God is here with us and He will present us with situations where we can do so much good in His

name and with His power.

God bless.



'Touched By A Dance' by Tes Halili

I praise and thank the Lord for allowing me to attend the full day dance workshop at our Lady Help of Christians, East Brunswick. Since the evangelisation course, I had so much desire to know more about evangelisation but through music and dance.

The dance workshop was one of the courses that Monica McArdle (a special visitor from England, director and performer of Passionfest and a member of the Sion Community school mission) had shared with the School of Evangelisation.

However, I had already been inundated with work for the last few months and I am still trying to catch up. It was difficult to be away from work this week. But God has His own ways of providing. On Tuesday morning, I saw Irene Jap at St. Francis Church. Irene was one of the participants of the 'Paul' course conducted in Narre Warren. Immediately, she asked me if I had been attending Monica's course. I realised this was one of God's divine appointments with me. Irene encouraged me to attend. And so I responded ...

I asked for leave and leave was approved with no major drama. So I attended the course.

I really had a wonderful time with the Lord and the people from the School of Evangelisation and with other Prayer Groups from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane who attended the course. I was inspired by how God touched Monica's life that she is able and willing to devote her time to this special ministry.

I went there because I am searching ... still searching for what the Lord wants me to do with my life. I have been working for almost 27 years now. Truly, I thank and praise God for all the blessings I have received in all aspects of my life. I could not ask for more. Yet there is still this very deep desire to do more for the Lord, to touch more lives for God but ... how can I fit it all in?

The answer came with a dance ... taught by Monica and visually presented by Ria and Rino, two volunteers from the youth group who were also at the course. The dance to the song 'Searching for Gold' opened my eyes. It felt so good to get that special touch by God.

I was so moved. God answered me and the answer was right in front of my eyes!!!

God, His Son Jesus, together with His most Holy Spirit and our Mother Mary, with all the an-

gels and saints in heaven, gave me this privilege to spend my day with an angel named Monica.



"Father, Jesus,
Holy Spirit, how I
adore you.
Lay my life be-
fore You.
How I love You."

Left:
Ria and Oliver
performing
'Searching for
Gold' at the
Narre Warren
Outreach Mass.

From p.1.... **Creative Evangelisation.**

Day four took a different turn, a less physically demanding one. We watched short film clips of popular movies such as 'The Matrix', 'Lord of the Rings', 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and the 'Lion King' and saw how they could be used to convey the message of salvation through talks, testimonies, music, prayer activities, etc. What a great way to reach teenagers and children. My five year old grandson loves the 'Lion King'. Now I can use it to teach him the Gospel. In the afternoon, working in small groups, we developed 5 power point presentations on Advent and World Youth Day. Amazing! People who had no idea how to do this, now know how to use this effective means of presentation.

Finally day five arrived which was spent perfecting all the items that would be used on the four Outreach events across Melbourne – a parish fair at Mill Park, secondary students at Mäzenod College, primary students at East Doncaster and a Healing Mass at Narre Warren. It was so fulfilling to put what we had learnt to use in the market place. I have already been able to use it in my own parish too.

All of us, young and old came away convinced of the scripture that 'God's power working in us can do immeasurable more than we could ever ask or imagine' (Eph 3:20). May this course have a big impact on our evangelisation efforts of the future as we look to new methods to reach people in our modern age.

Cathy McLure.

CREATIVE EVANGELISATION OUTREACH

By Florence D'Costa

Monica McArdle from England is a spirit filled person, full of zeal for the Lord, Jesus Christ. She has the skills to teach any age the new methods of evangelisation – and Wow! She did!

Sunday 26th November – St Francis of Assisi, Mill Park:

They were having their annual fete. Participants from the Creative Evangelisation Course performed twice in different locations in the midst of the people at the fete giving the message of salvation with dance, mime & sign language. When we performed the second time, I had a vision of Jesus in our midst. I shared this with the group and we were all so excited and empowered. We did our part and we are sure Jesus did His.

**Tuesday 28th November –
Mazenod College, (All boys school) Kernot Avenue, Mulgrave:** We performed to the Year 9 students who would be attending the WYD08 – The message of salvation was given to them through power point, dance and mime and sign-

language. Monica also trained a group of boys to mime. Before we could begin, there was so much noise in the auditorium and when we finished, there was so much applause. These boys were surely touched by the Higher Power!

**Thursday 30th November –
St Peter & Paul's Primary School, East Doncaster:** We were divided into groups and each group trained a class either in mime or dance or drama. We performed as a group and also each class performed. These children were so excited and eager. They were fantastic!

**Saturday 1st December –
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Narre Warren:** This was the finale. We had a healing Mass and during Mass we performed various dance, mime, sign language. A group of youth from the Parish who were trained by Monica also performed. The gospel was read and we enacted in "Stills", we would just take a pose and stay still. Take the next pose and

stay still – with expression on our faces and body posture giving the message of the gospel. This was awesome. At the end of the Mass we were all prayed over individually and were filled afresh with the Holy Spirit to continue our mission spreading the Gospel Message of Salvation in action and if necessary in words. After Mass we had a get together and there I spoke to many people and it was very touching and moving.

Every single person – from the youth to the mature who attended this course has been further evangelised and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Having been present for the whole two weeks, I think I am qualified to say that we need to go into Catholic Schools and parishes and evangelise. So, now having the new and modern methods of evangelisation and knowing how effective they are, we are all geared and ready to set THE WHOLE OF AUSTRALIA ABLAZE WITH THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SOLDIERS FOR GOD — GIDEON'S ARMY



In the Old Testament account of Gideon, his army of 300 heroes won a great victory against overwhelming odds because they were prepared to step out in faith and trust the Lord. Our own Gideon's Army is also winning a wonderful victory for the Lord through their financial support of the School which is keeping the School afloat against great odds.

The great benefits which will flow from the work of Monica McArdle and the Creative Evangelisation course were only possible because of the underwriting of the course by the Gideon's Army team.

I can't thank these people enough but I know the Lord will thank them through his blessings which will be poured out, pressed down and overflowing upon them.

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

CELEBRATE EMMANUEL by Carmen Sylvester

On the Feast of Christ the King, November 26th, we were out in force again in the Rundle Mall to proclaim to the world that God is indeed with us.

Perfect day for which we were thanking God in earnest as it had been hot then rain predicted. No rain came and all was in place to roll, only to find out that the loud piped music in the Mall was there to stay and nobody could tell us how to turn it off. It was rather naïve of us to think that everything was going smoothly this year. Many phone calls later a few important people coming down to tell us that they had no idea how to turn it off. We started the concert with the Folk Group and Basic (brothers and sisters in Christ) belting out the songs to drown out the piped music. It seemed to have worked because by the time Basic finished their segment we counted two hundred people standing around clapping hands and tapping feet not to mention singing along with Shine Jesus Shine as well as few others.

I was going around asking people to pray hard before the children's choir had to come on or else they could not compete with the piped music. Jo

Jo the Clown with a Magic Touch had the children enthralled with his antics and then lo and behold half way through his performance there was loud silence coming from the Mall speakers. The piped music had stopped and I thanked God even more profusely than I have ever done before.



A bag of goodies anyone???

The Tyndale Christian School choir went on next and the children attracted a greater crowd with their angelic voices. Between the clowns handing out gift bags filled with Christian goodies, the children's nativity procession and the Holy Cross Church choir leading us in carols, the concert moved as smoothly as anyone could wish for.

Phew..... A sigh of relief and a prayer of thanks. Once again we had proven that when God is on our



The Tyndale Christian School Choir

side, no amount of obstacles was going to prevent the Word of God being proclaimed in the Market Place.

To all those who in any way, shape or form supported this event our sincere thanks.

Back to the drawing board for Celebrate Emmanuel 2007. **You can support next year's effort by ordering your copy of "A Basketful of recipes". Please don't hesitate.**

May the Blessings of Christmas fill your hearts with Joy and Peace.

A BASKETFUL OF RECIPES



COOKBOOK

A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

A \$15.00 donation will make you the owner of

"A Basketful of Recipes" Cookbook.

Packed full of well-loved and tried recipes to tempt your taste buds.

Your generosity will support spreading the true message of Christmas.

Orders paid to: "Celebrate Emmanuel"
c/o 23 Charlick Rd, Crafers West, S.A. 5152

From The Heart of The South

As we approach the end of another year we contemplate the victories and what may appear as failures, in trying to honor our call to discipleship. Failures teach us perseverance and as we persevere we see that God's hand is always upon us encouraging us to go forward in his name. Obstacles have been the mark of the S.A. School of Evangelisation but as St Paul would say we are surrounded on all sides but never defeated.

As I recall our Holy Spirit day we can truly thank God for the giftedness of Allan Panozza who shared some powerful insights into the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our community.

The Faith on Fire Seminar was another time of renewal with Sr Majella Bollen who witnessed to the power of the Holy Spirit in her own life and in her ministry with young adults, children, and ethnic communities.

It is now with great expectation that we await the arrival of Gary Stephens as he shares his insights at our next Faith on Fire Seminar which is to be held at Christ the King Parish Hall on the 9th of December between 10.00am and 3.00 p.m. We feel privileged that he will be sharing his last

evangelistic outreach in Australia with us in Adelaide. I am confident that his powerful teachings will leave a lasting impression on our hearts as we have this day of spiritual preparation for the great feast of Christmas. We wish Gary and his family all of God's abundant blessings as he returns to his home in the UK.

It is my hope that many in South Australia will take advantage of the Faith on Fire Seminars as a part of their ongoing Spiritual formation in 2007.

Please check future Witness and your Parish Bulletins for details of seminars that the SOE will be presenting in 2007.

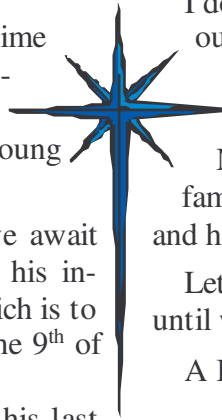
I do appeal to all the S.A. participants to support our work by your attendance and also by inviting others to come and experience, the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

May the good Lord bless your homes, your family and especially your hearts with peace, joy and harmony this Christmas Season.

Let us all pray for each other as we run the race until we receive the crown of glory

A Blessed Christmas to all.

Carmen Sylvester



Narre Warren — Eager Hearts Learn to Evangelise

It was a blessing for Lindsay and me to attend the 'Paul' course at Narre Warren. We enjoyed every topic shared and the opportunity to practice the six steps of the KERYGMA (God's Love, Sin, Salvation, Faith & Conversion, Holy Spirit and Community) which included some home visits in the local area.

During our home visits we experienced mixed reactions, for example, rejection from some and a warm welcome from others. This experience helped us to have a better understanding of what Jesus went through during his ministry on earth.

The Course also assisted us with several ways of how to prepare an effective testimony where one must always give glory to God.

The members of the School of Evan-

gelisation presented the course beautifully, using illustration, dynamics and scriptures references, enabling us to have a clear understanding of our call to evangelise as Jesus clearly commands us, in Matthew 28: 19-20, **"Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and of Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands"**.

We would recommend the course to every Christian, as it is our duty as the disciple of Jesus to continue his work on earth.

Arianne & Lindsay D'Argent.



The enthusiastic group of evangelisers at the Narre Warren course.

Formation of Evangelisers – 2006 – Narre Warren

This was my first evangelization course that I attended in Australia and yet my second. My first evangelisation course was in India and it was a 21 day course.

Well, now after nearly eight years in Melbourne, the Lord guided me to this course and believe me these six days were so awesome. I learnt so much and most of what I learnt in India was brought back in remembrance. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in the teachings and activities. Our hearts were filled with zeal and power. The teaching days were very deep and exciting. The reason being the teachers, not only taught us from the head level but also from the heart. We were taught how to deliver our testimonies effectively – WE DO HAVE A TREASURE WHICH WE NEED TO GIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE – THE TREASURE IS 'JESUS'.

We also had practicals such as door to door knocking. I had not done this in Australia because I had a fear of what type of people were behind closed doors – the reason being I did hear “not so nice” stories.

On the first day of visiting homes, my partner and I were a bit dejected because the first two homes we visited, nobody was home. When we went to the third house and knocked - it also seemed like nobody was home. We were disappointed but we were praying and then I had a vision of Jesus standing right in front of us, so tall and so strong, backing us and facing the door. I immediately shared this with my partner Abing and we were strengthened and happy that Jesus was with us.

We continued with our door knocking. We spoke to a Hindu family about Jesus. I gave them my testimony. A Christian from Sudan welcomed us into her home. We spoke to an Irish man and his family and he invited us to visit them another day at his home. We did have many rejections, but they were normal people – they were either busy, not home or just disinterested.

What I learned from this experience was that we need to take every opportunity to evangelise, to talk about Jesus to others. We had to do our bit and the rest we have to leave to the Holy Spirit. Even if they just opened the door and said that they were not interested, we should not feel disappointed or dejected because we did our part – Jesus

spoke to me. He said that it was a moment of grace for every home that we visited, whether they welcomed us or not. This knowledge really comforted me and my partner Abing.

We were told to evangelise on the Streets, at shopping centres, at parties and whenever we had the opportunity. And I do believe that the name of Jesus should be on our lips always. The fear of door knocking has now been lifted. I am now happy enough to do door to door knocking when necessary and to evangelise at every opportunity – at any time and any place.

We had practicals such as we had to deliver the Kerygma in various ways – in drama, in singing, on a poster etc. Every participant put forth their talent in a marvellous way and all in a short period of time. The groups were dynamic. We not only learnt from the teachers, but also from one another.

They did have the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the room and there was always a couple or more participants praying for the group. Jesus is so truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. He was with us all the time.

I would like to add here that all the participants were eager, enthusiastic, dedicated, loving, and caring. They brought in food and every meal was a shared meal – just like the early Christians. So all the more, Jesus was present even during meal times.

The participants, including myself are truly grateful to the teachers and to those who assisted in any way.

We were encouraged to attend the 4th Annual of Creative Evangelization Course that was being held on the 20 -24 November, 2006. I did attend this course and have obtained added skills to evangelise this modern generation. Monica McArdle from England was our teacher and I personally want to thank her for her dedication. She taught us how to use drama, mime, sign-language, dance and film clips etc. for evangelization! So, look out Melbourne, HERE WE COME!

I am a Catechist and I teach the Reconciliation class. The students come from public schools. I have decided to work on evangelising them and their families and I will encourage the other catechists who work with me to do the same.

Thanks and God Bless you, Florence D'Costa



Evangelisers ready to go out.

NEW LIFE COURSE — 2006 — NEWCASTLE

... By Patrick Arendse

A New Life Course was presented by the Sydney School of Evangelisation at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Wallsend, Newcastle on the weekend of 25/26 Nov 2006. I did not really know what to expect but without a doubt can say that the course exceeded my expectations. I found the teachings extremely interesting, thought provoking and inspiring. They dealt with the central themes of Christianity presented in a faith inspiring way. I found the zeal and enthusiasm of Lucy Grasso and her team very infectious.

A particular aspect of the course I really appreciated was the "dynamics". These, often interactive, practical demonstrations, really helped the course participants to appreciate and gain a deeper insight into the essence of the message being conveyed. I found many to be rich in symbolism especially during the talk of salvation where our sins were nailed to the cross and washed by the blood of Christ. I can fully appreciate the effort the team must have put into it as the dynamics require a



The happy group of participants at the New Life course in Newcastle.

lot of hard work and meticulous planning and co-ordination. They are without a doubt an excellent means of reinforcing the key ideas of the teaching in practical ways. It also has the benefit of adding variety to the teachings.

I found the course a welcome refresher with respect to my personal relationship with Jesus. I guess I've been caught up in the hussle and bussle of everyday life. To experience a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit is always a very deeply moving and healing experience for me and at the weekend it was no different. I am sure the other participants were also touched by the Lord in a special way like I was.

I left the weekend blessed,

invigorated and with zeal to make the Church's mission on earth my own once again. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Sydney School of Evgnaglisation for a job well done. May the Lord continue to bless, protect and guide you in your endeavours to equip and encourage others to spread the Good News.

Thank you Lord for these wonderful servants of yours in the SOE. May they continue to be a blessing to all they meet. Truly may your kingdom continue to come on earth through institutions like the Sydney SOE. Continue to fan the flame inside all of us so we can bring your love to our brothers and sisters who are so desperate for you in this world.

In Jesus name, Amen.

FR. ELIAS VELLA, OFM - SYDNEY VISIT

Fr. Elias is from the Maltese Province of Franciscan Conventual Friars Minor. He graduated in Theology from the Lateran University, Rome. He has written several books and lectured on pastoral care, deliverance and healing for over two decades.

Special Healing Mass

Friday 19th January 2007 at 7.00 pm

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church,
98 Old Prospect Rd. Greystanes.

Enquiries: Lucy Grasso (02) 9670 4440 or
John Cassar (02) 9834 2913

For Melbourne visit details contact:
Michael Guest, mob. 0409 128 738

Inner Healing Seminar

Fr. Elias and Diana Mascarenhas

Saturday 20th January 2007, 9am—5pm
Sunday 21st January 2007, 11am—6pm
followed by Mass.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall,
7 Grantham Rd. Seven Hills.

Cost: \$40.00

CaFE – Catholic Faith Exploration

‘Knowing God Better’ Series

... by Wendy Power

From a parish meeting expressing a need to ‘do something’ about falling numbers at Masses, we suggested running the CaFE video series, obtained from the C.C.R. Centre in Melbourne. We showed the sample video to a small group, where it was decided to run it at 3 venues (in private homes) as our parish is very large and mainly rural.

We purchased the leaders manual and some very colorful posters, typing in our own venues and contacts. These were widely distributed at the 3 churches and on community notice boards. We also composed our own prayer leaflet and distributed it widely among parishioners to pray for it and to invite people to come. We wrote to the Carmelite sisters as well to ask them to pray which they readily did - that strengthened my nervous knees.

A couple of us visited homes in one town which was fruitful in its own way, although none of these actually came.

Over the 3 venues where the videos were shown, 35 people attended. We then joined together for a shared lunch in the Newhaven Yacht Club at the end of the 7 weekly sessions. The comments were most encouraging. For example: “Can we keep these going?” “It’s good to hear a lay person talk like that.” “It’s time we had something like this.” “I’d like my husband who doesn’t come to Mass to see this series.” Another husband told me he hadn’t intended to come, but said, “Because it was in our home, I did and I found it very interesting.”

Our parish priest came to the lunch and was able to chat with everyone and help some of them with special needs. Four people from other Christian groups came and others who did not feel ‘at home’ in the church were able to express their thoughts and felt accepted.

At this lunch we showed the sample video of the series, “Exploring the Catholic Church?” by lay theologian Professor D’Ambrosio. We will start this series in October.

Meanwhile Michael and I found there was a DVD series called “Knowing God Even Better” by the same speaker, David Payne. So our group have continued on Friday afternoons and we are being blessed by these professionally presented, humorous and informative series. As one participant said, “These are really good” There are some beautiful film clips with appropriate scripture verses in these talks. We bought the CD of the

music used in the series called, “Songs to help you pray” and you know what - it really does!.

Why not get the sample video from the C.C.R. Centre, pray, and approach your parish priest and see how this flexible program could bless your parish, your neighbours or a young mum’s group?

N.B. Other CaFE series available –
Catholics Listening to God -

- Arch-Bishop Mark Coleridge

Drink from the wells of the Church -

- Fr Cantalamessa

Life in Christ - - - - - Fr Cantalamessa

Parents - - - - - David Wells

Baptism

Eucharist (available soon)

Youth

Catholics Making a Difference – various speakers

Pass it on - - - - - Michelle Moran

Pope Benedict speaking recently to the German Bishops:

“We must reflect seriously **how** we might carry out a true evangelisation today, not just a new evangelisation but often a first evangelisation. People don’t know God, they don’t know Christ. A new paganism is present, and it’s not enough to maintain the community of believers, although this is very important.

I believe that together we must find **new ways** of bringing the Gospel to today’s world by preaching Christianity anew and by establishing the faith.”
- Zenit News Agency

Congratulations

**Terry Rooney on your ordination as
Permanent Deacon**



Terry is a graduate of the Sale SOE and we ask the Lord to bless him, together with his wife Marie, in his commitment and service.

Mary and Moses in New Zealand...Cathy McLure.

Early this year when I was heading off to America for the Azusa Street Conference, someone said to me that maybe I would get to speak in overseas countries. I thought that was impossible but on the 26th October I found myself heading off to New Zealand with Adrian Commadeur



Reporter Christine Lewis interviews 'Moses' and 'Aaron'

to conduct the "Mary" and "Moses" courses. As I passed through the airport, it dawned on me how awesome an experience this was. On arrival the warmth and friendliness of those we met soon settled my nerves and I soon felt quite at home.

One of the highlights for me was catching up with Fr. Brian Playfair and Noel Johnstone who had attended two courses in our diocese 8 years ago. Fr. Brian and I had joined forces for some very fruitful parish visiting in Pakenham as part of the 'Formation in Evangelisers' course while Noel and I had spent a leisurely day at my brother's farm during his visit. It was also great to see first hand the fruit of their hard work setting up the Schools of Evangelisation in New Zealand after their return, so far over 200 people have taken part. They both have fond memories of all who they met here and send their gratitude and best wishes to all.

On the first weekend, 33 people attended the "Mary" course. Together we looked at Mary in the scriptures – her words and example, how she was foreshadowed in the Old Testament. We also

looked at what the Church teaches about Mary. Maori born Huia, beautifully portrayed Mary for us in each session, bringing the course to life. Charlie Gatt who came from Melbourne to help also played several supporting roles. One of the participants shared

with me a week later how one of the sessions had a profound effect on her in relation to her marriage.

Four days later after some relaxation and sightseeing we began "Moses," a course on leadership, with 16 people. This is one of my favourite courses as it takes us through the highs and lows of Moses' life. Once again Charlie used his acting skills to portray Moses throughout the course. Most of the participants were in leadership roles within the Church and so they could easily identify with the lessons.

On our days off, Noel generously took us to Rotorua where Adrian took up the challenge to be chief of the visitors which resulted in front row seats and a perfect view of Adrian and Paul (from Traralgon) doing the 'Haka' on stage. I have interesting photos as proof.

Finally it was time to say good-bye to all the team and our wonderful hosts Julia and Dennis who looked after us so well. I thank God for allowing me this experience and for His many blessings that Adrian and I shared on our overseas sojourn.

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May	EMMAUS	Nerang, Qld.	Elmer 07 3345 8430
June—July	Formation of Evangelisers	Nerang, Qld.	Elmer 07 3345 8430
28th & 29th July	EMMAUS	Traralgon, Vic.	Cathy: 03 8711 4690
October	Formation of Disciples	Nerang, Qld.	Elmer 07 3345 8430

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