



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

The Witness

Catholic Schools of Evangelisation National Newsletter
August 2007

BECOME A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

When it comes to evangelisation in Catholic parishes there are two things you can be certain about. The first is that evangelisation is happening in every parish; the second is that every parish could do more.

Evangelisation is happening in every parish because the Holy Spirit is active in every parish bringing to fulfillment the work of salvation so that ultimately every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. But we can always co-operate more with the Holy Spirit in this work of evangelisation. This is where we see the call of the School of Evangelisation; to help parishes and individuals to become more active and effective in bringing people to faith in Jesus.

Often when a parish wants to do something in the way of evangelisation it initiates some sort of outreach program. There are many of these programs available and they are very good. However what sometimes happens is that after a while the programs lose momentum and falter. The reason is that evangelisation programs will only work if the people involved have a clear understanding of what is involved in evangelisation and if they are living evangelisation as a way of life beyond the confines of a particular program or outreach.

To help individuals and parishes to grow in their understanding of evangelisation and to become more effective evangelisers the School is now offering a new seminar, "Becoming a

Contagious Christian". This seminar has been developed in America by Bill Hybels and the team from Willow Creek. The seminar helps participants to identify their own particular style of evangelisation and to evangelise within their own circle of relationships.

The course comes from an evangelical Protestant background but talks are included on the New Evangelisation and Papal teaching to place the content within a Catholic framework.

This two day seminar is being presented at Our Lady Help of Christians in East Brunswick in October (See page 11 for full registration details) in conjunction with the School's National Executive Committee meeting. After that, who knows! We would like to see the course presented in parishes throughout Australia.

Pat Kelly.



E-PRAYERS NEEDED

"The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Phil 4:5-6

Please come on board and join our prayer team. Receive a monthly list of prayer intentions.

Contact: Pat Kelly on, pakell@bigpond.net.au

DON'T FORGET the S.O.E. WEBSITE

Keep informed:

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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.

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*Check out information about the
School of Evangelisation
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www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

Post, email or fax your articles of an evangelical nature, personal testimonies, jokes, news items, photos, advertisements, competitions, Bible trivia etc. to the Editor at the above address.

The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

Deadline for the next issue of

**The Witness
31st October 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.

THE PARISH FLYER

By Pat Kelly



When I was a child, Wonthaggi where I live, was a coal-mining town. Every day trains loaded with coal would head off to Melbourne. My uncle worked for the Victorian Railways and his house was right near the railway line. I used to love to stand on the back fence and watch the trains race past. In those days they were steam trains, of course, and they were awesome machines, almost alive, belching smoke and steam with the noise of the whistle blowing. I was terrified by them and loved them at the same time.

Our Parish Evangelisation and Formation Program (PEFP) can in many ways be illustrated by a steam engine. The boiler of a steam train is full of water but it's no good if it's cold, for the engine to move you need steam and to get steam you need heat.

The first objective of the PEFP is to generate fire, the fire of the Holy Spirit alive in the heart of the disciple so our hearts are filled with the love of Jesus. Only when our lives are centred and focused on Jesus can the cold water of indifference and apathy be heated to boiling point to produce the mighty power of love that is the hallmark of a disciple of Jesus. Our parishes need parishioners who are first and foremost committed disciples of Jesus.

The second point about a steam engine is that it's made to pull carriages. A steam engine can travel along by itself but it looks odd, there is obviously something missing, it's only complete, it is only really a train when it's towing all the carriages to their destination. The same can be said about a disciple, we can travel along on our faith journey just focused upon self but we are only truly disciples when we are bringing others to know Jesus as well. A disciple who doesn't evangelise is odd, there is something missing.

The second objective of the PEFP is to help disciples to become evangelisers. In the parish situation the goal is that everything the parish does will have an evangelistic focus, that evangelisation will be the first priority of the parish.

The third lesson we can learn from the steam train is that it doesn't travel indiscriminately, it moves along set tracks guided by signals and timetables as part of a whole rail network.

The third objective of the PEFP is develop a parish structure to continue the work of forming disciples and training evangelisers who will have a lifelong commitment to the work of evangelisation.

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WE HAVE RECEIVED POWER ...

I have often wondered what would my last words be to those who are close to me. My final words would have to express something which is very special to me; something which I consider to be of crucial importance. It would not be the time for joking or for sharing something which is trivial or banal. It would be the time of imparting something very meaningful. I have accompanied people as they died. It is such a sacred moment to witness a parent talking to his or her family for the last time, or for a child to do the same thing to their parents.

In the Book of Acts we find the final words of Jesus to his disciples before he ascended to Heaven. What did he say? Basically he said two things. The first thing is that he promised his followers that they will receive power and secondly that they would be his witnesses to the most remote parts of the earth. What is this power that Jesus promised? He was referring to the power that comes from the Holy Spirit. What does the power of the Holy Spirit entail? It is enough to look at what happened to the disciples. During the Passion of Jesus they could not be found. They were scared. They were frightened. Locked up. Yet after the Holy Spirit filled their hearts and their minds which his presence they became different people. Peter had the courage to preach openly about Jesus. He experienced an amazing boldness to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

Therefore the power that Jesus promised is to help us not only to do what is expected of us but to go the extra mile. It is a power that encourages us to be more generous than normal, to do something which is above and beyond our normal call of duty. It is a power to do something heroic that makes a difference to the lives of people. It is a power to help us do something that we normally do not think it is possible to achieve.

We see the evidence of this power in the lives of so many parents as they try their best to nurture their families. Only God knows the sacrifices that so many people are doing today to safeguard and promote right relationships, respect for human life from the moment of conception until death, and to nurture family life. This power that Jesus promised is evidenced by the amazing generosity of so many people who live or who choose to live in under developed countries working to give the people the basic necessities of life so that they can live in dignity. The same thing can be said of so many of our brothers and sisters who minister unselfishly in our

**BUT DO WE BELIEVE IT?**

parishes. The power of the spirit is also manifested by those who have the firm conviction that Jesus is alive today enabling us to do the same thing that he did when he was alive. "These are the signs that will accompany believers.....they will lay their hands on the sick who will recover" (Mk 16:17-18).

This power has not been promised only to adults but to everyone including children. Because of our baptism we are filled with the life giving presence of Jesus Christ our God. Recently I read the story of Raymond who saved his brother's life by giving him his bone marrow. He said "I did it to help Ben. I love him. I was very scared but I wanted Ben to live. We still fight sometimes but he is my brother. I couldn't imagine not having Ben". Their mother said as tears flowed "I spent a lot of time in the hospital chapel asking God please don't take my son". Stories like this can be multiplied. All we need to do is to believe in this power that Jesus promised and to ask God constantly for it.

Why has Jesus promised us the power of the Holy Spirit? For what purpose? "And then you will be my witnesses.....to earth's remotest end". God has a specific plan for all of us, for the whole world. This plan is for everybody to base their lives according to the teachings and guidance of Jesus. At the end, everything will be submitted under the headship of Jesus. As followers of Jesus we are not only invited but we are also given the necessary tools to realise God's plan. We are called to bring life where there is death, hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, compassion where there is suffering, forgiveness where there is hate, and integrity where there is abuse. We cannot do this work on our own, we need God's help, we need the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word martyr means witness. Martyrs are those people who witness to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ whatever the cost may be. Many were prepared to give everything that they possess including their life. We are also called to be martyrs, to be witnesses. We can do this in many varied and practical ways. When we meet people who are in need; yes we listen to their anxieties and to their problems. Yes we try to do whatever is possible to help them in practical ways. However let us not miss the opportunity to ask, "May I pray for you now?". Bring Jesus into their lives there and then.

Continued page 4 ...

PARISH EVANGELISATION PROGRAM - TRARALGON

A Parish Evangelisation Program was launched at St. Michael's parish, Traralgon on April 15th this year with a power point presentation at all Masses. The program consists of four successive courses over 3 years to help parishioners to be better equipped to share their faith with others in their families and communities. The first two of these courses have now been presented. The first being, "New Life" based on the core message of the Gospel and the second, "Emmaus" based on the scriptures. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed these two weekends and are eagerly anticipating the next course next year. These courses were presented by the Sale Diocese School of Evangelisation Team, which consists of seven people who have attended many courses and been trained to present them to others.

The vision of the SOE Team is to offer this

training to parishioners in every parish so that we may be a more evangelising church.

This Team also presented an "Emmaus" course in Iona in May, the second course in that parish.

Another course called "Mary – A Letter From Christ" will be presented at Cowwarr on November 10th – 11th. The course looks at Mary's role from a thoroughly scriptural point of view and also tackles some of those difficult questions that non Catholics may sometimes ask. This is a chance for the many past participants of these courses to have ongoing training but is open to anyone who may never have attended as well.

Anyone interested in knowing more can contact Cathy McLure on 51743001 or Patrick Kelly on 56722772.

What's important in your life?

by Carolyn McCabe

I recently attended the New Life Course held in St. Michael's Hall. It was held over 2 days and covered a range of topics pertaining to our faith.

Like most of us at times, I had got caught up in busy-ness and trying to balance (juggle) the various aspects of my life. Making the commitment to this weekend gave me the opportunity to stop and re-assess what was important in my life (God) and refresh my faith, as well as a learning experience. One of the things I realised was that my "spiritual health" is every bit as important as my "physical and mental health."

The course was run by a dynamic team and included interactive activities that challenged me to take responsibility for my faith, the need to share it with others and the importance of community to support me. It was a bonus being held in my home town, Traralgon. If you get the opportunity to attend one of these courses, do yourself a favour and make the time.



Pat Kelly with Therese Hummel and Alicia Worland during the Emmaus Course at Traralgon.

Cont. from P.3 ...

WE HAVE RECEIVED POWER... By Bishop Joe

Let us sow the seed and then we let God continue to work in the lives of his people. Sometimes people tell me that they are afraid that they would say the wrong thing in prayer. Just share with others what God has done in your life. You cannot go wrong as long as you speak from your heart.

I have often asked, "Yes I believe that Jesus ascended to Heaven, but what is he doing there?" Paul tells us that Jesus Christ is at the moment in Heaven interceding for us. He is praying for us so that we can use the power that he has

given us and be powerful witnesses to what he stands for. "He (Jesus) entered Heaven himself so that he now appears in the presence of God on our behalf." (Heb 9:24)

To finish I encourage everybody to make this prayer.

"Come Holy Spirit, renew me with the power of your love. Make me experience your presence and your touch. Make me understand that by witnessing to other people what God has given to me they may understand that it is only with God that we reach our full potential". Amen.

NEW LIFE at ST. JOHN'S PARK, SYDNEY



In a scene from a movie about Mother Teresa, Somebody asked Mother Teresa if she was trying to change the world, and implied this would be ridiculous, she answered, "No Im not trying to change the world, I just want to help this one person". This scene stuck in my memory, and when some friends on several occasions commented that anything we did was pointless, because we couldn't change what was going on in the world, I would then describe the above scene.

On the weekend of June 23 & 24, I attended the "New Life" seminar, which I will no longer call a seminar, rather a spiritual retreat. It was organised by the Sydney School of Evangelisation, with the assistance of the Wollongong team, we had our children attend a parallel program (They loved it). The programme was well organised, professional, and very dynamic, which involved all participants without putting anybody "on the spot" (something my wife was afraid of). I spoke to all the participants on the day, and there wasn't anybody, who wasn't touched by either one of the speakers, or one of the dynamics. This included me.

I love Jesus, and I love my One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. When "defending" my belief in God and the Church, I would always do it using Quantum physics, history, logic, and similar types of arguments, so one could say that I was a cerebral Catholic, defending something that I was born into. Not unlike a form of Nationalism. Whilst not rejecting peoples witness on there encounters with God, I felt uncomfortable with it, and I couldn't see myself doing something similar (worried what people would think).

Recently elected to our pastoral council, I had this overwhelming desire to join our evangelisation committee (I needed to explain to everybody how logical God and the Church are). Once on the com-

mittee, I realised how big a task it would be, I also had this overwhelming desire to pray better/more effectively, a little anxious on how to start this evangelisation,. We decided to enlist the help of the School of Evangelisation, to give us the tools, on how to evangelise. What I got was so much more. I will start my witness, with the end of the retreat, and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Mentally I asked for the Faith of Abraham, and my heart asked for the gift of prayer. I had three people praying over me, and one of them said " My beloved son, take the example of Mother Theresa, I am not asking you to do great deeds, just do little ones, with great Love". For me this was God saying, **Yes I Am here**. I cried like a baby.

When asked at the retreat, what was faith? I gave what I thought was a well thought out dictionary answer: faith was to be in possession of something you have not yet received. Since the seminar I have been given the gift of prayer, which I found out was not just one way traffic, where we are just praying to God, rather the traffic is two way, he actually talks back, whether through inspiration, scripture (which I read daily now), or other Catholic literature, so now I actually look forward to prayer, many times a day, and it is through this dialogue, that I have come to a new meaning of Faith, and that is to **completely submit to the will of God**, no matter what. What is the will of God? The teachings of our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church go into great detail on describing Gods will; our responsibility is to accept these teachings (all of them, not just the ones we like).

Lord thank you for coming into my heart, as well as my head, and I pray, you who is all good, will continue to change my life, for I never want you to leave, I Love you. Praise our Lord Jesus.

Emil Perosh

Hospital Evangelisation

by Mike Dooley

Be aware that the Holy Spirit can do dramatic things in hospitals.

One experience I had while in hospital concerned Joe, a 73 year old Italian gentleman who occupied the adjoining bed. We talked a lot together each day. Joe shared about the overseas trip he and his wife were planning to make. One evening a lengthy conversation got onto always being ready to meet one's Maker.

It just seemed as though the words were there to come out of my mouth, so I spoke them out. (I took a guess at the Holy Spirit doing the leading) I encouraged him and added that we all should always be prepared. About 8.30pm I indicated that the sleeping tablets were beginning to work and I should try to sleep. Joe responded that he was not tired enough to sleep, and would go to the lounge to watch TV.

About 2.30 in the morning, I awoke and noticed that his bed was made up and empty. When the next nurse came in I asked where Joe was. She burst into tears and told me that Joe had collapsed and died instantly in the doorway of the TV lounge. The next day his widow came in to ask me what was the last thing we had talked about. She said that we were always talking together, and it was important for her to know.

She was consoled in her deep grief that Jesus got a prominent mention in his last conversation.

Some months later my Catholic Charismatic Emmanuel Covenant Community conducted a weekend outreach to the Anglican parish at Kenilworth, a small Queensland country town. My wife, Mollie, and I were billeted with the Anglican priest and his wife.

On the Sunday morning as we neared the church, the priest informed us that they had a 20 minute sermon. Mollie and I were to share the time. We only had enough time to panic. No preparation, no idea of the Scripture readings, etc. It is out of my comfort zone as a Catholic to preach a sermon in an Anglican church, particularly with no warning. Mollie did well with her time.

One of the Scripture readings was about being always prepared to meet our Maker. What a relief, my blood pressure must have dropped at least 20 points. I shared the story of the hospital experience.

I concluded by challenging the congregation to see if they could guarantee being alive to exit the church after the service. There were a few gasps.

Mother Teresa's Message



People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered ...

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives ...

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies ...

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you ...

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight ...

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous ...

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow ...

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough ...

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God ...

It was never between you and them anyway.

Adrian Commadeur at the Monastery In Adelaide

By Mary Sellars

Winter chills and cold rainy weather did not deter the 56 who came to hear Adrian Commadeur on 30th June, speak on the Holy Spirit and Discernment, in the Sebastian Centre in the Monastery grounds.

Beautiful Praise and Worship opened our day, led by Tania Lawless, who uses her talents to sing praise to her Heavenly Father, the giver of gifts. She was supported by young musicians from Noarlunga and together the name of Jesus was lifted on high.

During the morning Adrian gave us a clear understanding about Discernment; the ability to make wise decisions before God. Life is full of decisions - each day we face spiritual battles between God and Satan and reference can be found in *1 John 4:1-2*. The hearts of people become a battleground in a world controlled by media. People make decisions in various ways - they can be impulsive, rash, too fast, ditherers and procrastinators to name a few. This is when diligence is called for and the ability to keep commitments, unlike a 'crusader cavalier' who burns out, striving to achieve in all directions. Naturally the best way is to wait on the Lord and sense the direction He wants. Another type of decision maker is the careful, courageous Christian, who is balanced, wise, and ready to take risks and, under guidance of the Holy Spirit uses initiative.

Discernment is vital when we make life changing decisions. For many people none more so than when choosing a marriage partner for life. Some criteria would be having the same values, religion, racial backgrounds and, similar interests.

During a prayer meeting when prophecies may be spoken, it is advisable to discern if the word given is Holy Spirit inspired or from the human spirit. Naturally, no journey of faith exists without temptation from satan, but prayer will always be a barrier to evil. Walking with Jesus and obedience to the teachings of the Church will also keep us fully armed to fight against temptations.

We can stand firm in the knowledge that the Church has never departed from the truth of the Catholic faith. An important fact to remember, even bad popes have never departed from the truth.

Adrian also shared with us some insights into the discernment process of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

There were many conversations around the room during the shared lunch break and many

thanks to all participants for generously providing plenty of variety and to those who assisted to bring out the luncheon goodies.

The afternoon was devoted to the Holy Spirit, His power, the fruits and gifts. *Acts 1: 8*, The Holy Spirit activates in us His power to stay strong in the faith. This is the catch cry for WYD 2008 ACTIV8 "You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses"

A point to remember is: holiness means to be in the world not of the world.

Where there are fruits of the Spirit *Gal. 5:22-23*, there is growth of holiness.

Adrian encouraged us to attend such gatherings as the Faith on Fire Seminar where the communal prayer brings forth abundant Power of the Holy Spirit within our lives. The Holy Spirit desires to rest with us to develop a familiarity and intimacy. In *Mark 16:15-18* Jesus commissions the disciples to go out into the whole world; He requires the same of us.

The Holy Spirit has always equipped God's people to live an authentic Christian life. To some he has equipped with Foundational Gifts (*Eph. 4: 11-13*) to some with Motivational Gifts (*Rms 12: 4-8*) and to some with Charisms (*1 Cor. 12: 8-10*).

Together we make up the Body of Christ complimenting each other and encouraging each other along the way.

We all felt abundantly blessed to have Adrian come and minister to us. Thank you Adrian and we pray you will be able to return to Adelaide before too long.

A Prayer for World Youth Day

***Holy Spirit pour out your grace
on this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit
and grant to us a New Pentecost.***

***Make of this land a true place of welcome
for the young people of the world.***

***Grant to those young people who come,
conversion of life,***

a deeper faith and love for all.

***Enable them to build a new civilization of life,
love and truth.***

***Make them true witnesses
to your power and grace. Amen***

Mary McKillop, Pray for us.

MELBOURNE SCHOOL of EVANGELISATION

The Melbourne School of Evangelisation has devoted much of the year to assisting three parishes with the Parish Evangelisation Program.

Firstly, the Mill Park, St Francis Parish School of Evangelisation has developed a series of days of teachings for the young people with an eye towards World Youth Day. Adrian Commadeur assisted in the prayer for the release of the Holy Spirit at the Philip Island camp. Then the team of Nan Deakin, Charlie Gatt, Lenny and Merlyn de Cotta and the local team presented a New Life course.

At present we are preparing a two day series of teachings on evangelisation, with an emphasis on the Kerygma and Testimony. This will be presented over a weekend with plans to evangelise the nearby shopping centre, and local parishioners.

Secondly, the Melbourne team including Christine McQuillan, presented a New Life course at the Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Bayswater. Some 25 participants gave the course a favourable reception including the parish priest, Fr Arnold who attended most of the sessions. One person, a

teacher in a secondary college named it a 'fantastic weekend', and asked to be involved in the School. The next phase will be to present the Emmaus course.

Thirdly, the same team which included Hazel Sessarego also presented the New Life course to some 22 to 30 participants. Some could only come one day. Supported by the members of the parish prayer groups, who provided the meals and tea breaks, one testimony was that 'it was the best day of my life'. Charlie Gatt and Hilda d'Souza had prepared the parish of Mary of the Assumption, which includes Mary MacKillop parish and St Paul's in Kealba. They spoke at all the masses in the two churches. This was evangelisation in itself, to see Catholic lay people enthusiastic for the Lord. Fr Charles Portelli, PP, gave unstinting support to the course, and the entire parish evangelisation program.

A number of other parishes seem to be interested and so we hope that 2008 will bring more opportunities for introducing the PEP.

FJI NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONVENTION

Under the leadership of Fr John Bonato SM and the organising committee, the 27th Annual CCR Convention took place at Ba, Catholic Parish School grounds, on the main island of Viti Levu over the long weekend of 15th—18th June. Sheltered under two huge tents, attendance varied from 800 on average to 2000 for the Sunday healing mass. Keynote speaker was Adrian Com-

madeur on the theme from Lk 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...* Adrian addressed this theme in five talks, with the help of three cut out sheep who illustrated the themes of: spiritual blindness, captives set free, and lifting the down trodden.

In the final talk he spoke about the seven favours or graces Jesus gave from the cross, including the Church and Sacraments, his Spirit, his Mother and his merciful love. People were invited to be connected to a large cross by means of a long red cord symbolising the blood of Jesus, source of grace. All convention participants linked to the



Adrian with some of the participants. His sheep in the background.

cross by reaching out and touching the cord or someone connected to it.

The music was as could be expected of South Pacific people who love their harmony. Late into the night singing could be heard and even at 6 am in the morning some of the 27 parish groups began their morning prayers with songs.

The following are two comments received following the convention:

"Yes we just are simply overpowered from the powerful sharing that was conducted during the Convention. We spent close to five hours just sharing over the Convention formalities and the sentiments expressed are so life giving and awesome. I just cannot thank you enough for what you have shared with us during the Convention."

Raymond & Maria Acraman

"It was a great privilege to have you ministering in Fiji - we were indeed very blessed. Fr John and I talked about the Convention all the way home, and we know that the Lord had touched hundreds and hundreds of hearts."

Fr. John Bonato SM

History of Salvation Course, St. Rita's Parish, Brisbane - A Great Success

The following are comments from participants:

During 2006 I attended bible study courses (Story of Salvation), given by Elmer Guerra. His knowledge and sharing about this course was truly inspiring, in particular this course helped me further in my understanding of God's plan in my life.

Thank you, Carmel Blewitt.

Just a short note to express my thanks for the story of Salvation Course, our own story. It was wonderful to have the Bible from Genesis to Revelation so well explained, and linked to our own lives. I have always liked the Old Testament but after doing the course it made a lot more sense.

God Bless. Doris Williamson

I wish to thank Elmer for all the time and knowledge he has shared with us. I have enjoyed so much 'The Story of Salvation' Bible study and look forward to future courses with Elmer. It has been a great spiritual enrichment to me personally whilst sharing it with the other group members.

Thank you, Elmer. June Molloy

Several months ago a small branch of parishioners from St Rita's Parish, Victoria Point were highly privileged to receive excellent tuition on 'The Story of Salvation' from Elmer Guerra. For many of us it was the first time we had been lead systematically through the Bible with such enlightenment. This experience was enhanced for me when both my husband and twenty-one year old daughter joined the group. Elmer has equipped us with the knowledge to broaden our understanding of the Catholic faith and drawn us closer together as a family.

Angela Cooper

Undertaking 'The Story of Salvation' Bible study course with Elmer Guerra at St Rita's Parish, was, honestly, the most important step I have taken in my faith journey. It has answered all the questions that I had about the Bible and Catholicism and has increased my understanding of God's unchanging Will and everlasting love for us.

Thank you, Elmer. Adele Cooper

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - PARISH VISITING

The door knocking out- **School of Evangelisation Mill Park** had three great experiences of reach was scheduled for the 1st of July after 10.30 mass on Sunday. Our Parish Priest prayed for us in the final blessing and after we gathered together in the foyer we received a special blessing from our Parish Priest sending us out to talk to the 1st Holy Communicant's parents. The weather as always was at it's worst, it was cold and raining, another obstacle to overcome. We braved the weather, checked our list for the first address and accidentally visited a family who was not on our list but the smile and welcome for the start of our journey must have been a planned accident.

We made our way to the next address and again a great welcome. We discovered that the parent had lost her partner when her child was 3 years old. A lot of sorrow still present, we talked for a while and prayed with mother and child and departed with her request to join a Cells group. We

warmth, prayer and positive outcomes. There were other not so good experiences of us evangelising at people's doors and teaching on might have appeared to be on deaf ears and closed hearts.

After three and a half hours of door knocking and fasting we were feeling drained but we kept praying for revival and renewal of spirit and we visited a few more houses. My visiting partner's prayers helped me together with her readings from the bible which replenished my spirit. We called it a day at 4.45 p.m. praying that whatever words and thoughts we left with people will develop into something positive in their change to fit in Jesus into their busy lives.

This was our first door knocking exercise since our Evangelisation training, we stopped at 20 houses and spoke to 8 families and I must say it gets better everytime.

Cont. from P.2 ... **THE PARISH FLYER**

The aim of the PEPF is to establish a Parish Evangelisation Team made up of committed disciples who have the skills and desire to evangelise and who have a parish plan for evangelisation. If this is something you would like in your parish or if this is something that you are already working towards then maybe the School can help.

... by Pat Kelly

We are looking for opportunities to talk to priests and parish council about the Parish Formation & Evangelisation Program.

For more information check out our website at: www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au



SCHOOL LEADERS MEET



Left: School Co-Ordinators and team members gathered with Bishop Joe in Sydney in May. Representatives attended from Parramatta, Sydney, Broken Bay, Wollongong, Wagga, Melbourne and Sale dioceses as well as the Maltese and Croatian community.

SOLDIERS FOR GOD – GIDEON’S ARMY

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

Many people are apologetic and reluctant when it comes to asking for money. I have been guilty of that myself in the past. However I am coming to realise more and more what a blessing it is to give and that you are doing people a favour when you give them an opportunity to give.

God has promised that he would provide for our needs if we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Mt 6:33). In providing for our needs and the needs of the Church, the Holy Spirit has given many people the Charism of Almsgiving and all of us are called to be generous in providing for the work of spreading the Gospel.

The Lord has already provided everything we need he is just asking us to be ready to take a risk

and pass the money on!

Again I want to thank those people who support the work of the School through Gideon’s Army. May God bless you abundantly! Last year they provided over fifty percent of our budget. Again I am asking for new people to take up the challenge. You can never outdo the Lord in generosity and whether your gift is the widow’s mite or the riches of Solomon you can be sure that God will bless you.

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

GIDEON’S ARMY

Please enrol me/us in Gideon’s Army:

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

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

NEW

RENEWAL

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 make cheques payable to: School of Evangelisation, and return them to:

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

Enquiries: Jacinta Gunn
ph. (03) 5998 7859

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2007

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept. 1 st —2 nd	Share Your Faith	Nerang, Qld.	Elmer 07 3345 8430
Sept. 8 th —9 th	Formation in Catholic Teaching	Wagga, N.S.W.	Kay 02 6933 1444
Oct. 6 th —7 th	Emmaus	Bayswater, Vic.	Adrian 03 9337 2051
2 nd —3 rd Oct	Becoming a Contagious Christian	East Brunswick, Vic.	Pat 03 5672 2772
Oct. 27 th —28 th	Emmaus	St. John's Park, N.S.W.	Lucy 02 9670 4440
Nov. 10 th —11 th	Mary	Cowwarr, Vic.	Cathy 03 5174 3001
Nov. 24 th —25 th	Emmaus	Keilor Downs, Vic.	Adrian 03 9337 2051
Jan. 5 th —13 th	Formation of Evangelisers	St. Mary's N.S.W.	Lucy 02 9670 4440
Jan. 19 th —20 th	New Life	Adelaide, S.A.	Carmen 08 8339 2573

BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd OCTOBER 2007

Our Lady Help of Christians, 49 Nicholson St. East Brunswick

This course will teach:

- **Catholic Evangelisation**
- **Witness and Proclamation**
- **Discovering your own style of evangelisation**
- **Dynamism of being open to others**
- **Relational Evangelisation**
- **Evangelisation through compassion**
- **Strategic Evangelisation**
- **Value of clear communication**
- **The Work of the Holy Spirit in Evangelisation**



Bring your bible, an open heart & lunch.

For more information contact:

Pat Kelly (03) 5672 2772

BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

Please find my contribution of \$20 or \$ enclosed

Please make cheques payable to: School of Evangelisation, and return to:

**School of Evangelisation
P.O. Box 168
Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995**

**Enquiries: Pat Kelly
(03) 5672 2772**

School of Catholic Evangelisation
P.O. Box 168
Wonthaggi 3995
Phone 03 5672 2772

THE WITNESS

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*God is who He is,
Not who we want Him to be ...
“God is Love.”*

1 John 4: 8

**SALE DIOCESE CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE
15th—16th SEPTEMBER 2007**

St. Peter's College Hall, Cranbourne Frankston Rd. Cranbourne

Conveniently situated and close to the city—Melway Ref: 133 D5

Music !

“Receive God's Gift”

Singing !

Keynote Speaker: **Fr. Steve Fletcher, MGL**

Rally for Young People & supporters

Come and join the Conference Banquet
5.30pm on Saturday 15th

Preparing for WYD SYDNEY 2008
7.30pm on Saturday 15th

Total Cost for Sat. & Sun. \$35.00
(including Banquet—booking essential)

Dave Callaghan, MGL will share his journey with
WYD Cross and Icon in East Timor.

Conference Coordinator: Michael Power, ph 03 5678 2271 email: powerfarmbass@hotmail.com
Registration Secretary: Elly Lawlor, ph 03 5998 1088 (BH) or 03 5998 5531 (AH) email: elly@pschreurs.com.au