



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

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Newsletter
August 2008

RECEIVE THE FIRE!



Bishop Joe Crech

A Parish Evangelisation Conference 14TH-16TH November 2008.

The Catholic School of Evangelisation in partnership with the Parish of St Francis of Assisi in Mill Park will present a unique conference on Evangelisation.

Based on the experience of the International Congresses of the New Evangelisation in Paris, Lisbon, Vienna, Brussels and Budapest, this is a mini version of them. It is unique because conferences in the past have always been on the need in general for the Church to evangelise and find different methods of doing so.

In the way the Catholic Church is structured in geographical areas, called parishes, one of the most effective means of evangelisation is to proclaim the saving work of Jesus to people who are then incorporated into the local parish community. This conference will take place in the parish of Mill Park with the aim of setting the whole parish on fire! The conference will showpiece how this parish is already evangelising parents, children, youth and adults. It commences each day at 9.30 am with Praise and Worship, teaching and Eucharist, continues with evangelising activities in the afternoon and closes with several evangelising concerts at night. There will be several lunches with the aim of evangelising those present with an invitation to accept Jesus more fully into their lives and become involved in the parish community.

We would like everyone to attend this conference, to be held in wonderful new facilities of St Francis of Assisi parish. Fr Brendan Lane PP will be the host of the conference.



Bishop Christopher Prowse

Keynote Speakers include: Bishops Joe Grech and Christopher Prowse and Jan Heath. Bishop Grech, from Bendigo, is the founder of the School of Evangelisation. Bishop Prowse is the chairperson of the Archdiocesan Committee on Mission. Jan Heath from Brisbane is an internationally recognised Catholic evangelist and founder of several evangelising activities in Australia, like

Catholics Returning Home and *Little Rock Scripture Studies*.

Receive the Fire! will have a double focus.

First, there will be teaching and proclamation of the gospel message and how this is to be transmitted today.

Second, there will be opportunities for involvement in evangelising the parish of St Francis of Assisi. At their choosing, participants can join visits to retirement homes, to parishioners, street evangelisation or creative evangelisation of children.

The conference will be a total experience of worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelisation. It will be an experience of a vibrant parish community, which will hopefully be duplicated in other parishes around Australia.

See page 11 for Registration Form

Cost \$60 plus donations towards meals.

Enquiries: Adrian Commadeur Ph/fax: 93372051, email: acommade@bigpond.net.au or Trish Spiteri Ph 0438010018, email: Trish.Spiteri@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Jan Heath

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 our web page:*

www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

Post or email 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 2008**

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.

PILGRIMS' PROGRESS by Pat Kelly

The young people, and some not so young, who travelled to Sydney for World Youth Day were called pilgrims. Pilgrims, as we know, are people who go on a spiritual journey to a holy place. But you don't have to go to Sydney, or any other place, to be a pilgrim, you don't even have to travel one centimeter. In fact we are all pilgrims and each one of us can make a pilgrimage right now, right where you sit, by travelling into the depths of your own being and opening the door of your heart to Jesus. Ask Jesus to send his Holy Spirit to come and dwell within you and fill you with his life changing power.

There is nothing more certain than the fact that we need the power of the Holy Spirit if we are to persevere and bear fruit in this work of evangelisation. The World Youth Day showed what is possible in a city when it is filled with praying people who are full of the power of the Holy Spirit. The city is filled with joy, the police stand around with nothing to do, people can even travel on the trains late at night in complete safety.

The key to receiving the power of the Holy Spirit is prayer. The key scripture text for WYD was Act 1:8, *"but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses."* Jesus made this promise to the apostles at the Ascension and they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Act 2:4). What did they do in the meantime? They prayed, *"With one heart all these joined together constantly in prayer."* (Acts 1:14)

At Pentecost God poured out his Spirit as had been promised not only by Jesus at the Ascension but by the prophet Joel hundreds of years earlier.

*"I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity,
Your sons and daughter shall prophesy
your young people shall see visions,
your old people dream dreams.
Even on the slaves, men and women,
shall I pour out my Spirit."* Joel 3:1-2

We are probably familiar with this reading because it is quoted by St Peter in Acts but are we familiar with an earlier verse which precedes the promise of the Spirit?

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your heart and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Joel 2:12-13

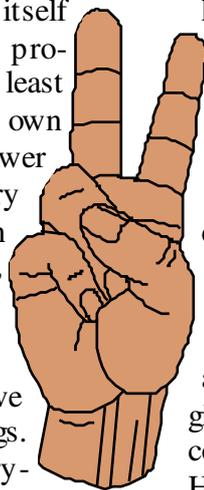
Sydney was filled with Christians on fire with the Spirit during WYD. Why can't it be like that every day? Why can't all of our cities be like that? We need to return to the Lord with weeping and mourning and FASTING. We need to ask God to forgive us because he has given us so much and we have done so little. We need to fast so that we can be more open to the Holy Spirit. In Sydney the Spirit showed us what he can do if we give him a chance.

VICTORY IN JESUS CHRIST

Jesus was a great teacher. He had a keen sense of observation and he taught the people from his own personal reflections. Jesus spoke from his experience. This is the reason why he often told parables, stories of what he had observed as he walked from place to place. The people could then easily understand the message that he constantly tried to share with others. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus shares a story that was very common in his days. Many of the people in Israel during his time worked on the land. They could identify very quickly with the man on the land who one day decided to put seeds in the soil in the hope of having a rich and abundant harvest.

We are also familiar with the story. Very often when we read the story the emphasis is made on the seed. Some of the seed fell on hard ground, others among rocks while the other seeds fell on very good soil producing a very good harvest. However, I would like to reflect a bit deeper on the sower, on the person who put the seed in the ground. These things struck me about this as I reflected on the story. Although the sower may appear to be in charge of the operation the actual growth has nothing to do with him. Moreover, the sower would have no idea how the seed would produce the fruit. He would have no real knowledge about what makes the seed integrate itself with what was in the ground to finally produce the desired fruit. In addition, he at least understands that growth occurs at its own pace. It cannot be hurried. The sower might wish for a quick harvest or for every seed to produce its fruit. However much as he wishes and hopes for these results, the growth and the final harvest follows its own natural course of growth.

This teaches us a lot. In life, we have the constant temptation to control things. We feel most secure when we have everything organized, when we have full knowledge of everything that we are responsible for and when we can determine exactly what the future would be like. Through the story of the sower Jesus is teaching us that true freedom lies in the fact that we do what we can do in life to the best of our ability and then we need to let God do His work with us and through us. True freedom lies in the renunciation of control, knowing that we have done the best that we can and trusting that God is in charge and He will bring everything to fruition.



We cannot solve every problem by ourselves. We cannot save the world by ourselves. We do what we can in the best way that we can trusting that God will work with our gifts and commitment to produce good fruit. This is the reason why Jesus was able to sleep during such a severe storm that frightened experienced fishermen. This is the reason why Jesus kept focusing on going to Jerusalem in spite of all the dangers involved. This is also the reason why Jesus at the garden of Gethsemane was able to decide to go through with the Passion in the midst of so much anxiety and loneliness.

This attitude has given encouragement to so many people throughout history. On August 23, 1963, Martin Luther King gave his famous speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. He fought so hard for equality for the Afro-American people. He faced stiff opposition and criticism. He had to wade through so much prejudice and hatred. Once when, he received death threat calls for his family, he was ready to give up. He said that he could handle being threatened to be killed himself, but when it involved his family it was too hard. He only persisted because he felt the presence of Jesus Christ alive within him. He kept going because he firmly believed that he was doing everything that he could but then he had to leave much in the hands of God to finally achieve equality for his people. It might have sounded foolish. I am sure that many people tried to persuade him to give up because they could not see anything good coming out of it, that it was a hopeless situation. However, the reality is that today we have Senator Barack Obama, of Afro-American heritage as the nominee of the Democratic Party for the presidency of the United States.

We do our bit to the best of our ability knowing that God is in control. This is something that gives all of us hope. In many countries, especially in our own country we are living in a very secularized society where some, a minority but very powerful, try to drive religion away from the public sphere.



by Bishop Joe Grech

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR THE SACRAMENTS

by Anne Kelly (Sale diocese graduate)

After attending a School of Evangelisation course we all need to ask ourselves, "How can I evangelise?" The answer is as varied and unique as each one of us.

One of the ways I think I am answering this important call is to prepare the Catholic children attending the local State Schools to receive the sacraments.

Different parishes and different dioceses have their own ways of preparing children for the sacraments. In our parish the preparation is still school based and the teachers at the Parish school take the school children through the sacrament preparation. A number of years ago I felt that the Catholic children in the State Schools were being neglected so I offered to run catechetics classes for these children. I see every baptised Catholic as a member of our parish community and therefore deserving the benefits and responsibilities that this entails.

It wasn't as difficult as I thought. I have a set of catechetics material which covers each sacrament. About eight weeks before the sacrament date we begin the programme and meet weekly and work our way through the material. The children share their work with each other at each class and with their parents. We talk about the topic we have covered and read through the homework material. When our preparation is complete we practice with the Catholic School children and then

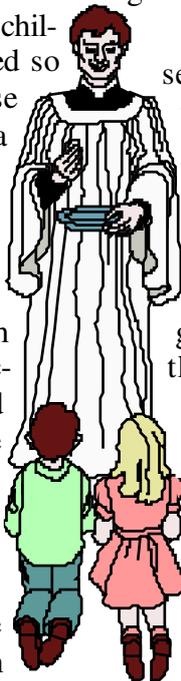
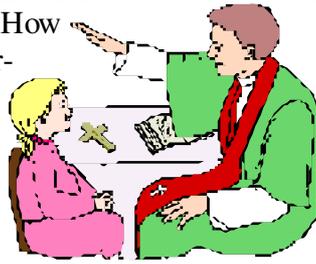
come together for the great day.

My experience has been that parents outside of our school system often make a fuller commitment to their child's sacramental development as they attend classes with them, work on material at home and generally become more involved with the programme. Having

parents come to classes is really valuable as it builds a relationship between parish and family. Parents also ask questions about why we (Catholics) believe this or that and these occasions give me opportunities to explain things.

It's a joy to work with these families. I often see God working in people's hearts as they make that connection with the parish that may not have been there before. Whether we see these families go on to make a greater commitment to their faith is not something that I have control over, it is between them and God. I feel that I am trying to answer God's call to evangelise and doing the best I can to be faithful to the Gospel.

If you are looking for a way to evangelise, why not give it a try. Don't worry about whether you are "qualified" or "clever" enough. Jesus started with a few ignorant fishermen whose only qualification was that they were full of the love of God, full of the Holy Spirit and enthusiastic about God's kingdom.



❖ *Reconciliation* ❖ ❖ *First Communion* ❖ ❖ *Confirmation* ❖

Cont. from p.3 **VICTORY IN JESUS CHRIST**

by Bishop Joe Grech

We are told that we can get excited about everything, but not about Jesus. We can talk about everything, except about Jesus Christ. We are allowed to promote every idea that is presented to us being in its use of crystals and New Age or in the environment as long as God is not mentioned. The European Union has refused to include the heritage of Christianity in the first Constitution that was presented for ratification.

Sometimes we might feel at a loss what to do. Sometimes we get discouraged and feel dejected. However we need to keep saying loudly and at every opportunity that God loves all of us so much that he sent Jesus. Jesus died for me. Jesus rose

again for me. Jesus is alive in me now and it is only when I base my life on the values and teachings of Jesus Christ that I will reach my fullest potential and meaning of life.

Ultimately we know what the result is going to be. St Paul wrote in his letter to the people of Ephesus. Ultimately everything will be put under the leadership of Jesus. We have the victory and therefore we need to live our lives with a victorious mentality that ultimately what we stand for and believe as Christians is the answer for the longings and the hopes and dreams of humanity. This is what all of us proclaimed boldly and celebrate passionately during the events of World Youth Day.

Our Faith Fired Up In Adelaide by Carmen Sylvester

It seems like it was only a few weeks ago that we gathered for a Faith on Fire Seminar but in fact it was a few months ago. This time it was not 40 degrees outside but raining cats and dogs and at times hailing thus making us thankful for a nice warm room. Certainly cold outside but our hearts burned with the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

Our day started with a wonderful session of Praising God so beautifully led by Tanya Lawless and John Linsell. They even had us oldies doing actions to Receive the Power that wonderful WYD song. And receiving the Power we did indeed. Father Charles Gauci still suffering the effects of the flu after WYD was determined to be with us for the day and we thank God for his ministry. It was a powerful day of reflection and sharing our faith journey together as we encouraged each other.

As we reflected on the prayer of St Anselm of Canterbury the Lord touched each of us in the place where we were at that moment. As Father said in the Spiritual life it is not about us finding God but it is about us responding to the God who finds us. It is not our striving but our loving response. It is God who finds us just as we are. There are a lot of paradoxes in the Spiritual life. The spiritual life is not about narrowness, not about me but it is about communion, a Communion of being loved. The Spiritual life is not about my particular hobby in Spirituality but about my openness

towards where God is leading me and challenging me.

Father shared with us the first reading and the Gospel of the coming Sunday (10th August) to emphasise the point of responding to God where we are in our life. Both readings reflected on the wind. Elijah finding God in the silence and Peter defying the raging winds as he walked on water towards Jesus only to lose sight of Jesus when he focused on the raging wind. Sometimes we too focus on the storms in our lives and lose sight of the one who calls us to walk on water towards him when he simply says COME.

St Ignatius speaks about the good spirit and the bad spirit. The bad spirit leads us to introspection, guilt, blaming of others, harshness, condemnation, self judgment to entrap us. The good Spirit leads me to communion with God and others, life, healthy relationships, moving on from despair, hope. The Spiritual life is about reaching out, moving on in response to the invitation of the one who loved us first.

Father invited us to really open our hearts to respond to God's Spirit and see where he is leading us at this particular moment in our Spiritual journey.

Reflection time, sharing time, fellowship, music, confession, Mass and laying on of hands, were all part and parcel of what made this day a very special day for all those who answered God's call to "Come".

Continued P.10.

EMMAUS RETREAT ADELAIDE

"Many thanks to Neil Hayter and Carmen Sylvester, co-ordinator SOE, for their work in the organisation of the Emmaus Retreat.

Due to this extremely successful Retreat a wonderful time was appreciated by all who participated."

Photo:
The happy group of participants.



W.Y.D. SYDNEY — WHAT A WITNESS !

After three years of waiting and intense preparation the World Youth Day, 2008, has come and gone. However, unlike other events previously held in Sydney, this main event has left a hallmark not only in Sydney, but also in all Australia and throughout the World.

I followed every major event from the opening Mass by Cardinal Pell at Barangaroo, to Pope Benedict's closing Mass at Randwick racecourse. Never in my life, and I do not consider myself young at the age of seventy one, have I found myself in the midst of about four hundred thousand youth well behaved, cheering for Christ and the Pope; 'Benedetto, Benedetto'. This has left an indelible mark in my heart and in my mind of great hope with a fresh spirit for our future. The spirit of these young people from all over the world has convinced me that the Catholic faith is alive and strong and that our Pope, Benedict XVI is loved and appreciated beyond measure.

The last discourse of Pope Benedict to the youth during the closing Mass of the WYD 2008, was full of praise, encouragement and affirming them that they are needed and wanted to be an intrinsic part of the Church, to be evangelisers of the Gospel with the zeal of St. Paul and to spread it and live it without compromise. These words coming from the mouth of the successor of St. Peter have steered my soul to pray more fervently for the Pope for strength and stamina to continue shepherding the Catholic community throughout the world and to pray for the youth of all nations for protection from all that is evil in the world and to remain faithful to the Catholic faith.

A big 'thank you' and congratulations to Cardinal George Pell, Bishop Anthony Fisher and their team of thousands of volunteers for their faith, sacrifice and perseverance in organising such a great and wonderful event which went along like clockwork from start to finish.

Eddie Grasso, Co-Ordinator Maltese SOE

We had been hearing about WYD for so long that when it rolled around we were all surprised to find that we really didn't know much about what was going to happen. First pilgrims needed somewhere to stay, then, they didn't and still later they did. After considerable spring cleaning we were ready, however, an hour before we were due to col-



lect our pilgrims we were told we were not needed. Oh! What a disappointment! Fortunately for us, the next day two Canadian boys needed a bed so we were involved.

When Jill asked us to help with a stall at the Expo – I was somewhat reluctant, thinking, how can I cope with Evangelisation? Not knowing what to expect we presented ourselves for duty on the Wednesday after having soaked up the atmosphere around Sydney – which proved to be both exciting and stimulating rubbing shoulders with many happy and friendly pilgrims.

The Expo experience was also most enjoyable, Pat had the stall packed with interesting literature and we were able to chat with like minded people from all over the world – France, Austria, Italy, USA, South America, and the Philippines to name a few. It was very encouraging for me to hear what these wonderful people were doing or wanted to do in their parishes to make Jesus known and loved. Many were looking for parish courses and could see that SOE Courses would fill that need – Pat supplied the relevant contact numbers as required. I found the atmosphere, discussions with the pilgrims, and the opportunity of visiting other stalls a most uplifting and rewarding experience and was glad to be involved.

I was also fortunate to join the Pope's boat-ocade the next day, which was another wonderful occasion as was the hike to Randwick to be part of the Final Mass.

The week was a magnificent tribute to our Catholic faith it left me feeling I was part of a universal church – the body of Christ has indeed many members!

Maureen Kippax, Pymble SOE

Prayer for Vocations

Shepherd God, You have given me all that I have and all that I am. You fill me with your gift of life, and you invite me to respond to Your love. Help me always to say YES to Your call to love, to serve, to hope to be a 'shepherd'. Help me to share generously the gifts you have given me with those in need.

Please help those You are calling to be Shepherds as priests, brothers or sisters to say YES to You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LOVERS OF THE WORD OF GOD

... Thank you for your commitment to the Word.

(In honour of all those who continue to run the race to receive a crown not that withers but one that will last forever)

By Lucy Grasso, Co-Ordinator Sydney S.O.E.

In this our age of secularism and consumerism we have hit the jackpot not in materialism but in the wealth we have received through the Word of God that has been lavished upon us. The Formation Courses of the School of Evangelisation help us to be formed in the Word and in our faith and to continue our mission of evangelisation.

I would like to honour all co-ordinators, presenters, team members, helpers and intercessors who endlessly give of themselves to make sure that the Formation Courses presented are an opportunity to open the hearts of all those who take part in them, our participants, and to receive the transformation that the Holy Spirit wants to do in the hearts of his faithful. A lot of preparation takes place from behind the scenes in conducting and facilitating the courses. A lot of trust goes on in allowing God to be in charge that everything falls into place.

All through the courses, the feedback we get from participants is how moved and touched they were, how their faith has been deepened by the experience and how informative, formative and revealing the presentations have been as the presenters break open God's Word as well as open up their own lives in sharing what God has done for them, testifying where they've been and where they are now. This can only result in transformation through the work of the Holy Spirit in each individual.

When we provide the environment and proclaim the Kerygma, the Good News of Salvation, the result is a deeper faith and conversion in the lives of those who are present and hear the Word, those who will allow God to move in them, touch them and heal them, and consequently will experience new life.

It amazes me to see the growth of people, the glow in their faces, at the end of a course wishing that it would not come to an end. These people are truly the chosen ones who are sent forth to proclaim the Good News that they have recognised the Risen Lord as they walked along the road with Him and He explained the Scriptures to them. They too have found meaning in their suffering and have embraced God's plan for their lives to continue to walk closely with God's Word, the community and the church. In their travels they will testify that

they have seen the Lord, He is alive amongst us.

They are now also commissioned to continue in the words of St Paul to Timothy: ***"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*** (2 Tim 2:2)

In venturing into the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program last year, the Sydney School of Evangelisation Team conducted this program in four Parishes that have been touched by its effectiveness. This was a major step to take on and the Lord blessed us abundantly as we placed our trust in Him. Our God is a faithful God who brings to completion the work He begins in us. We are but clay in His hands, He is the potter, shaping us and forming us according to His plan, not ours. When we offer ourselves to be tools in His hands He can work through us. He brings us into pastures we would never have dreamt of.

I would like to honour the Parish Priests where the Parish Evangelisation and Formation Program have been conducted and ask God's blessings upon them and their Parish communities:

Fr Tadeusz Seremet, SDS - Sacred Heart Parish, Pymble (Broken Bay Diocese)

Fr Bob Bossini, SDB - Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys (Parramatta Diocese)

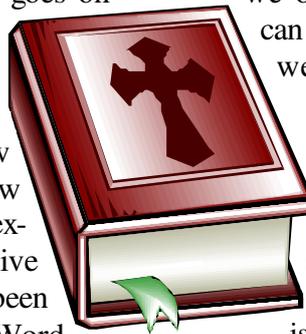
Fr Marijan Glamocak - Croatian Catholic Community, St John's Park (Sydney Diocese)

Fr Tony Brady - St Patrick's Parish, Wallsend & Our Lady of Victories, Shortland (Maitland-Newcastle Diocese)

To these dedicated Parish Priests we say 'thank you' for opening your parishes for the use of resources and entrusting the School Team to come and be of service to the Parish Community. Fulfilling our mission brings us into a deeper relationship with our God and each other as we minister with one mind and one heart. This has been a tremendous spiritual experience not only for the Parish Community but also for the School Team in building lasting relationships.

The Lord is showing us that the harvest is ready. He is opening the doors of more Parishes that will embrace the Parish Evangelisation Formation Program offered by the School of Evangelisation. Hear the calling of the Lord -

WILL YOU TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE?



PROCLAIM JESUS — WARRAGUL

By Wendy Power (Sale diocese graduate)

"Remember it is God himself who assures us all, and you of our standing in Christ and has annointed us, marking us with his seal and giving us the pledge, the Sprit that we carry in our hearts." 2 Cor 1:21-22

At the Sale Diocese CCR Renewal Day in Warragul in June Pat and Cathy from the School of Evangelisation encouraged those present to shapen their tools for working in God's garden.

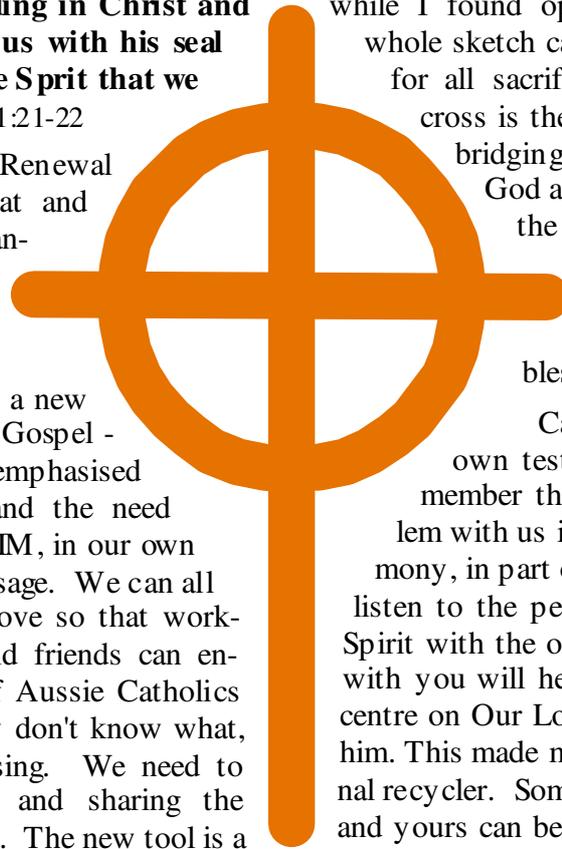
Pat gave us the first tool, a new way to share the heart of the Gospel - the Kerygma. In his talk he emphasised the ability we ALL have, and the need there is for ALL to PROCLAIM, in our own unique styles, the Gospel message. We can all share our experience of his love so that work-mates, neighbours, family and friends can encounter Jesus. Only 14% of Aussie Catholics attend mass on Sundays, they don't know what, or rather who, they are missing. We need to reach out to these people and sharing the kerygma is one way to do this. The new tool is a visual depiction of the kerygma - A Celtic Cross:

The Celtic Cross can be shared as a whole or just the part that fits the need of someone we meet. It is easily sketched on a scrap of paper or the back

of an envelope. Meditating on the drawing for a while I found opens up many possibilities; the whole sketch can be the eucharist, the once and for all sacrifice; the horizontal beam of the cross is the beautiful bridge Jesus is for us, bridging the great gulf between the Holy God and us sinners to bring us home to the Father's love. I have had two chances to share the Celtic Cross illustration with small groups recently and it was a blessing for us all.

Cathy gave us the second tool - our own testimony. Cathy helped us to remember that when someone shares a problem with us it is our chance to share our testimony, in part or whole, with them. We need to listen to the person with one ear and the Holy Spirit with the other. Which part of my journey with you will help this person Lord? We must centre on Our Lord, be brief and give the glory to him. This made me think that our God is the original recycler. Some of the worst rubbish in my life and yours can be the best fertilizer when given to him to encourage someone else on their journey.

During the day we all had the chance to apply the information in practical ways and we were challenged to become more contagious Christians.



PROCLAIM JESUS — WOODRIDGE

By Pat Kelly

On June 28th a "Proclaim Jesus" seminar was held at St Paul's Parish in Woodridge. The seminar was attended mainly by the Brisbane team to familiarise them with this new course.

The seminar consists of two sessions; in the first session the participants learn how to use the Celtic Cross illustration to present the kerygma and in the second they learn how to use testimony as a method of evangelisation. This was followed by an extended time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of the day the participants decided for themselves how they were going to evangelise during the next month and made a commitment to act on that decision. This decision was written out in the form of a "Goal Letter" and posted back to the participants at the end of the month. The idea is that they would then evaluate what they have done and then set themselves a new or revised objective for the next month.

The "Proclaim Jesus" seminar is the one day course outlined in the last issue of The Witness as "Evangeliation for Beginners". We decided on the Proclaim Jesus title because it really sums up what we are on about as evangelisers. If you are wondering what the Celtic Cross illustration is all about then why not organise a Proclaim Jesus seminar. It is a one day course which would really suit a prayer group or cell group or other such group who are looking for something to stimulate their evangelisation fire.

While in Brisbane I caught up with Fr Joseph Sadie. It was felt that there was a desire in the parish to become more familiar with Sacred Scripture. It is hoped that a History of Salvation course will now be conducted at Nerang. This is one of a number of scripture courses which may be of interest to parishes. As St Jerome said, **"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."**

Year Dedicated to St. Paul

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." *Galatians 2.20*

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostle's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. The Pope said the Pauline year will run from June 28th, 2008, to June 29th, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

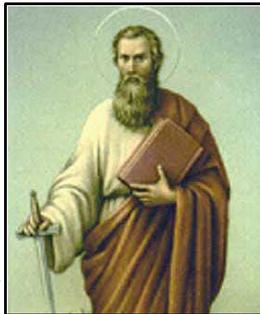
With the Year of Paul, we have an opportunity to explore anew aspects of Paul's teachings that can enhance the Church's life today. The Secret of Paul course is an ideal means to do this.

The Secret of Paul

This course can help us commemorate and honour the life of this great evangeliser of the early Church.

The benefits of taking this course are:

- * Understanding the life and the character of St Paul
- * Getting to know those who influenced Paul to become the person he was.
- * Discovering Paul's zeal, and its cost, which drove him to travel far and wide.
- * Grasping Paul's teachings about Jesus Christ, the Church and our place in it.
- * Identifying Paul's methods of evangelisation, some more successful than others.
- * Appreciating his relationships with his collaborators in evangelisation.
- * Measuring ourselves against Paul's race to the finishing line.



KEILOR DOWNS EMBRACES ST. PAUL

In this year of St Paul the Keilor Downs prayer group of Mary MacKillop wanted to do something to honour St Paul. They asked the School to present key talks over six weeks. As the talks take place in a prayer group setting, they needed to be a little shorter, without the opportunity to devote time to dynamics.

It was pleasing to hear people comment: "These talks are just excellent." It is obvious that attendees at the prayer group are learning a lot about St Paul.

For the Maltese people who have a great love for Paul this is a special treat. About 30 to 40 people are attending the prayer meeting, with talks taking place during July and August. The Secret of Paul can be adapted to various situations without loss of too much formation from the dynamics.

MELBOURNE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL DAY

About 160 people attended a Renewal Day on 9 August 2008 at East Brunswick, at which the Catholic School of Evangelisation made the presentations.

Adrian Commadeur spoke on the *Portrait of Paul*. Many found this very interesting as people know about St Paul in general, but not the daily details of his cultural and religious formation and practices.

Nan Deakin spoke about how Saul the violent persecutor was *Captured by Christ*. This event, explained in great detail, was pivotal in the transformation of Saul.

In the afternoon Pat Kelly showed how Saul was changed into the person of Paul in *Five Changes and One Conversion*. The conversion he spoke about was from slave to son, from attachment to the law to filial relationship with God the Father.

A few dynamics were able to be included in this shortened version. As the course runs along the metaphor of an athlete, the speakers got the audience to take a starting stance, the gun was fired, and the race of Paul's life began. Pat Kelly got a 'volunteer' with whom he demonstrated how impossible it was for the Jews to keep all the commandments.

The course continued over the next three Wednesday nights. The founder of the School, Pepe Prado, in his instructions to directors and teachers of the local Schools encouraged them to adapt the courses wherever it was possible. This freedom seems to be working with the Melbourne CCR course presented by the School.

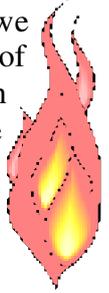
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Our Faith Fired up cont. P.5....

Our Faith Fired we floated home on the wings of the Holy Spirit to share with others what God has done for us.

Prayer of St Anslem for reflection:



O Lord my God teach my heart where and how to seek You, where and how to find you.

O lord you are my God and you are my Lord, and I have never seen You.

You have made me and remade me, and You have bestowed on me all the good things I posses, and still I do not know you.

I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek You, for I cannot seek You unless You teach me, or find You unless You show Yourself to me.

Let me seek You in my desire.

Let me desire You in my seeking.

Let me find You by Loving You.

Let me love You when I find You.

Amen.

**SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2008**

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
30 th & 31 st August	Share Your Faith	Modbury S.A.	Camen: 08 8339 2573
20 th & 21 st September	New Life (Youth)	Cranbourne, Vic.	Cathy: 03 5174 3001
20 th & 21 st September	New Life (Youth)	Marian Valley, Qld.	Elmer: 07 3345 8430
4 th ,5 th & 11 th ,12 th October	Formation of Disciples	Keilor Downs, Vic.	Adrian: 03 9337 2051
25 th —26 th October	New Life	Wodonga, Vic.	Gerri: 02 6056 2442
18th October & 29th Nov.	Apollos	Northcote, Vic.	Adrian 03 9337 2051
22 nd —23 rd November	Intercession	St. John's Park, N.S.W.	Lucy: 02 9670 4440

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

Thank God for the support of Gideon's Army which enabled us to be part of the World Youth Day Vocations Expo at Darling Harbour in Sydney. I personally found it to be a wonderful experience and I'm sure the other helpers would say the same. We literally had the whole world walk past our door, one minute you would be talking to someone from Bondi and the next someone from some country in Africa that you had never heard of - all part of the Church. A lady in New Zealand is talking with the Hamilton School right now about holding a course in Auckland because of the contact made at the Expo. Praise God!

the School and met many others who had experienced School courses in other parts of the world. I had the opportunity to share the Gospel message (via the Celtic Cross illustration) with 76 young people and had the joy of sharing with a French journalist on the steps outside the Expo and praying with him for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We talked to people who had never heard of

All this was possible because of the generosity of the Gideon's Army supporters. Please check your cheque book now and see if you have sent in your donation for 2008. We need your support now because the work is never ending and we now have the costs of the Parish Evangelisation Conference to cope with.

Pat Kelly.

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



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

<p style="text-align: center;">GIDEON'S ARMY</p> <p>Please enrol me/us in Gideon's Army:</p> <p>NAME (or NAME OF GROUP).....</p> <p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>TELEPHONE: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please find my annual contribution of \$100 enclosed</p> <p>OR Please forward National Bank deposit slip for one off annual contribution</p> <p>OR I wish to contribute by _____ deposits of \$ _____ each, please forward deposit slips.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for filling out this form!</p> <p>Please make cheques payable to: School of Evangelisation, and return them to:</p> <p>GIDEON'S ARMY School of Evangelisation P.O. Box 168 Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995</p> <p>Enquiries: Pat Kelly ph. (03) 5672 2772</p>
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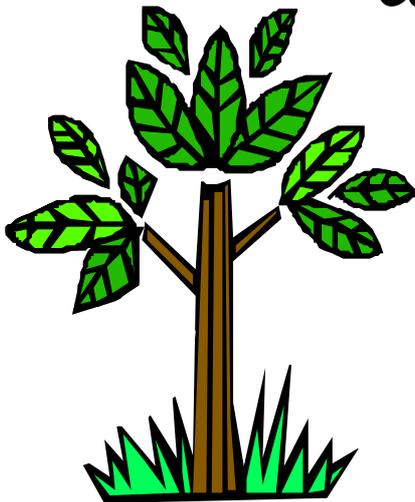
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<p>Please print clearly.</p> <p>Surname:.....</p> <p>First Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>State:..... Postcode</p> <p>Ph: Email:.....</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Registration Costs</p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td>Full Registration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation for meals provided</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Billeting (if required)@ \$15 per night</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total amount enclosed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Registration closes 1/11.</p> <p>Cheques payable to: Catholic School of Evangelisation Mail to: Conference Secretariat, 15 Holly Green Crt, East Keilor Vic 3033 Enquiries: Adrian Ph/fax: 93372051 Email: acommade@bigpond.net.au or Trish Ph 0438010018 Email: Trish.Spiteri@nillumbik.vic.gov.au</p>	Full Registration	\$ 60.00	Donation for meals provided	\$.00	Billeting (if required)@ \$15 per night	\$.00	Total amount enclosed	\$
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Pat, 56722772, email: pakell@bigpond.net.au

**"Changes are products of intensive effort.
The intensity of effort depends on the felt need
for change, and the resources that are mobilized
to bring about the changes desired"**

Muhammad Yunus, Founder of the Grameen Bank
for the poor in Bangladesh.