



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

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Newsletter
December 2008

"Miraculous Healing - The Chair is Empty ..."



Corinne Swinton, above, was healed of a crippling illness at a recent New Life course at Marion Valley Qld.

Dr Dan Scodellaro (Medical Clinic, Sunnybank) who has treated Corinne for the last three years has no explanation for her recovery.

See page 5 for full story.

MILL PARK on FIRE!

Parish Evangelisation Conference, 14-16 November, 2008

By Adrian Commadeur

The Parish of St Francis of Mill Park hosted this three day conference. Intended to showcase what an evangelising parish might look like, the conference was an ambitious series of separate events. Three keynote speakers addressed the ninety-nine registered attendees, and the many parish volunteers.

Bishop Christopher Prowse spoke on the theme of *The Evangelising Church*. He pointed out that in its beauty and architecture the church buildings point towards heaven. Bishop Joe Grech spoke on *The Evangelising Parish* as well as addressing the Seniors Lunch, where he referred to the fact that often grandparents are the ones to pass on the faith to grandchildren. On the Sunday, Mrs Jan Heath from Brisbane spoke on *The Evangelising Parishioner*. She challenged the participants to put into practice some evangelising activity.

While the mornings were devoted to worship time and teachings, the afternoons and evenings were used for evangelising activities. Jan Heath addressed the Ladies Luncheon, with a talk on *Vision, Values and Vitality*. Some 80 women attended a lovely lunch provided by the hospitality group of the parish. A musical item by Ryan Lobo added an evangelising dimension.

ContinuedP.7.

**Below: Participants who appreciated the Spirit filled
Evangelisation Conference**



The Witness

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

National Executive Committee:

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

Committee of Management:

Patrick Kelly
Adrian Commadeur
Maria Luff
Len Forster — Treasurer
Julianne Hoffard — Editor

Please direct all correspondence to:

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

email: pakell@bigpond.net.au

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

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
20th March 2009**

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 EUCHARIST - Source & Summit of Our Life.

A few weeks ago my father-in-law, George Kavanagh, died. He was ill for about a year and towards the end he wasn't able to eat much. In fact about the only thing he could eat was the Eucharist. In his last days he shared how much of a joy it was for him to be able to receive Holy Communion every day. We should never underestimate the power of the Eucharist, it can lift us up to heavenly places and transform us in body, mind and spirit. As I heard in a sermon recently, "When we receive communion the Body of Christ isn't absorbed into us, in fact we are absorbed into the Body of Christ."

The wonder of the Eucharist was especially evident to me at the closing mass of the Parish Evangelisation Conference at Mill Park. The joy of being in a packed church with brothers and sisters giving praise and glory to God with beautiful music and dance. The powerful sense of being in a sacred place where we had gathered to worship and adore God. The love of Jesus who offered himself to the Father on the Cross and offers himself to us under the humble appearance of ordinary bread and wine. It is wonderful to be part of this Eucharistic community of faith, the Catholic Church.

The Eucharist is indeed the "source and summit of the Christian life" (CC No 1324) It is the source of the Christian life because that is where we draw our strength from to be able to live the Christian life and it is the summit in that the union with Jesus that we enjoy in the Eucharist is the aim of our Christian life, not just hear, but forever in eternity.

During the Conference great stress laid on the call to "GO!" that is given to us at the end of mass. We were challenged to take this "GO!" seriously, to really "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" The greatest love we can give the Lord is bring his love to others and the greatest service we can give to the Lord is to help others to come to believe in him.

This is the objective of the School of Evangelisation: to bring the love of Jesus to others, to help them believe in him and then to equip them to be able to continue the cycle by bringing others to Jesus themselves. In this way the Body of Christ is built up and this reality is celebrated when we gather at the table of the Lord.

Can I finish by making a special appeal. Could you please make a special point of praying for the School during your quiet, intimate time of thanksgiving after communion each time you go to mass.

"Jesus please open doors for us in parishes around Australia and use us to open doors for you in the lives of the people who you love so much."

Pat Kelly

What does the church teach about the Eucharist?

... By Bishop Joe Grech



During the Last Supper "while they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat, this is my body'. Then he took a cup gave thanks and gave it to them saying, 'drink from it all of you, for this is the blood of the covenant which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins". (Mt 26:26-28) The church professes that in the celebration of the Eucharist the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of consecration prayed by the priest. The whole Christ is truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity under the appearance of bread and wine (Catechism of the Catholic Church N. 1374) The church also teaches that Jesus Christ remains present under the appearance of bread and wine as long as the elements remains.

Moreover, the Eucharist is not only a meal but it is also a sacrifice. Through his life, passion, death and resurrection Jesus Christ offered himself to the Father so that we can today go to Him with all our anxieties, fears, hurts, wounds and sins. In return we are renewed with hope and strengthened by His presence. We are brought into the inner life of God, the communion among the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The celebration of the Eucharist makes present again today what Jesus did on the Cross. He is even today, "the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (Jn 1:29) In the celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus does not sacri-

fice Himself again and again. Rather by the power of the Holy Spirit, His one eternal sacrifice is made present once again so that we may share in it and be empowered by His life giving presence to continue His mission. Therefore, during the Eucharist celebration we do not simply remember something that Jesus accomplished long ago, but we are joined in Christ's sacrifice and receive today it inexhaustible benefits.

Furthermore, in the Eucharistic representation of Christ's eternal sacrifice before the Father we are not merely spectators. The priest and the worshipping community are in different ways active. The community comes together with the priest in order to give praise and thanksgiving to our God for his never ending love and presence, to be bonded together and to go forth from the Eucharistic celebrations to commit itself to reaching out to others. Just as the Body of Jesus Christ is broken for us we are called to be broken for others. Just as we are nourished by the body and blood of Jesus Christ we are also encouraged to nourish others materially and spiritually. Just as we participate in the offering of Jesus to the Father we are also reminded that part and parcel of our mission as followers of Jesus is to offer ourselves in service to others.

Let us participate actively in the liturgy and let us prepare ourselves to receive this amazing love of Jesus for us by availing ourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation.

National Co-ordinators Meet

In conjunction with the Parish Evangelisation Conference the co-ordinators of the School met at Mill Park on November 17th. Delegates attended from Brisbane, Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Sandhurst, Sale, Melbourne and Mill Park.

Unfortunately Wagga Wagga, Adelaide and Pymble were unable to attend.



One of the key issues of the meeting was the question of how we can develop small groups to grow an evangelising parish. The interaction between the School and the Parish Cells of Evangelisation at Mill Park was examined. It was a very positive and encouraging meeting where the different Schools shared their strengths,

e.g. Wollongong - ministry to primary children.

Pat Kelly

Mini Youth Day? 'New life' in Wodonga

By Gerri Boldrini, Sandhurst Co-ordinator.



Participants enjoying the New Life Course Leneva

The 'New Life' weekend at Leneva (Wodonga) on the 25th & 26th October was one of the most exiting I have spent for a long, long time. It was fantastic.

There were 6 speakers in all and each one brought his own flavor to the talk. We looked at God's love for us, Jesus' sacrifice and the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

W.Y.D.'s logo was 'Receive the power' and that is certainly what happened this weekend. By Sunday as the gifts of the Spirit were opened the Holy Spirit was well and truly present. Every person in the room was touched in a mighty healing way. There were tears and joy. Every person there asked for the gifts of the Spirit.

The music ministry was great. The speakers were fantastic. It was a truly powerful weekend. However it wasn't all serious. There was lots of laughter, sharing, music and dynamics. A very full but immensely satisfying (and yes, fun) weekend.

Because of its phenomenal success the seminar will be held at several venues throughout the Sandhurst Diocese next year.

I just thank God (and all those who worked so hard this weekend) that we have these kind of opportunities. This really can fill your life with deeper meaning. The 'New life' course has lived up to its name and as one person commented: 'It should be taken to every Parish'.

Don't shortchange yourself. Don't miss out next time.

The Holy Spirit Abounds in Cranbourne

By John Duiker, Sale Graduate.

On the 20th and 21st of September I had the great privilege of attending the New Life course at St Peter's College in Cranbourne.

Although our group was small the Lord still blessed us abundantly, as he always does, perhaps in a similar way to the wedding at Cana where he provided ridiculously large volumes of wine for the guests when original supplies had dried up. Some scholars say that the wine at Cana is somewhat of a metaphor for the Holy Spirit – a super-abundance of grace given to all of those who come to the banquet.

The New Life weekend was no different: inspired teachings, powerful testimonies and Spirit filled witnessing provided to all those who attended. For me personally, it was a time to draw nearer to the Lord and grow deeper in love with him and to be reminded of the ever pressing and urgent call to not take the Kerygma for granted.

At the time of writing, many bishops have gathered in Rome for a synod on The Word of God in the Vocation and Mission of the Church, and during that meeting, Australian Archbishop Mark Coleridge stated that the Kerygma definitely cannot be taken for granted; the church in its preaching must evoke the faith that saves. As my parents often tell me – every day I must preach the Gospel, even if sometime I have to use words. All of this is only possible of course, through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Above: Those blessed by the New Life Course in Cranbourne

*We are all like angels with one wing -
we can only fly by embracing
each other.*



The chair is empty

By Elmer Guerra, Brisbane Co-ordinator

On the weekend of the 27th & 28th September 08 we had the privileges to organise a New Life retreat for youth at Marian Valley, Canungra Qld.

On this weekend, we had fifteen youth participate. One of the participants was Corinne, a young girl who had been confined to her wheelchair for seven years suffering from constant seizures and unable to care for herself with paralysis to almost 90% of her body.

With great effort she and her mum decided to attempt the weekend away in the mountain, so she could have a break from her daily routine of seven years.

The Saturday talks were presented with videos, music, and hand-on activities for the kids, we wanted all to be motivated fully with selected activities for their ages (colourful PowerPoint presentations, videos, dynamics, dramas, music etc), as well as the normal dynamic as part of the New Life course.



Above: A beaming Corinne walks after her miraculous healing.

On Saturday night we have the privilege to have a night session, where we decided to present the talk of 'Jesus is Lord'. The invitation was for each one of us to go to the foot of the cross of Jesus to lay down our crowns and in a loud voice proclaims that Jesus is our Lord and saviour. We were interested in motivate the kids to develop a meaningful relationship with Jesus in a warm, non-threatening environment as well as invited them to come to the altar with great faith that Jesus was waiting to share his immense love for us.

One, two, or three kids were moving to the altar with great respect and full of hope... when all of a sudden, Corinne jumped from her wheelchair and started to walk towards the altar all by herself. Truly a miracle was happening!!! Corinne's Mum who was sitting next to her, couldn't believe what her daughter was doing - walking for the first time in seven years, without any external help.

She said she felt Jesus was calling her to the altar, while she felt His arms grabbing and lifting her off the chair, so she moved to the altar and knelt in awe, to present her crown to Jesus then come back to her sit all by herself. While we (members of the school and students), were amazed at the miracle that was taking place in front of our eyes.

You can imagine, we all started to cry, praise, rejoice and give thanks in a loud voice ... Jesus was healing and blessing his people and we were there to receive his graces, Alleluia.

We finished the night with a party of joy and prayers, until it was time to go to bed with our little faith, now multiplied to the size of a mountain.

Sunday was a day full of surprises; Corinne was walking and sitting on the floor with the other kids, while her wheelchair was sitting all alone in one corner (The poor thing). But one more surprise was waiting to happen... she asked to talk with the local priest, so she went to have a private

conversation with Father Gabriel and he later confirmed her miraculous healing. When she return to the gathering, she was ready to gives us another announcement. From her conversation with God and since the miraculous healing, she now has decided to dedicate her life to Christ so she is looking for a religious order to join. Praise be the Lord!

This was only one part of the weekend, all the rest of the kids have their own personal experiences, and now they can not wait to be prepared to be Evangelisers ... and already are talking among themselves, about what they need to learn in order to be teachers of the School of Evangelisation. Praise the Lord!

While this holy initiative continues, please be aware that we may be knocking at your door very soon, looking for the youth of your local parish to be evangelised. God is great!!!

What a day!

..... By Carmen Sylvester, S.A. Co-ordinator

15th November 2008 in Adelaide.

As I left the building where we had just held the last Faith on Fire Seminar for 2008 I found myself singing my latest favorite Christian song, "What a day"

The Splendor of your presence Lord

We will meet you there

One day we will stand to see You

Your majesty we'll bear

You satisfy the hungry heart

Our wells will not run dry

But till that day, that glorious day

We'll walk with heads held high

Just waiting for your glory

Longing just to see You, face to face

The day I see Your glory

What a day.

These lyrics by Robert Galea, a Maltese seminarian studying in Victoria, describe just how I felt on that sunny day having had experienced the presence of God through the ministry of our guest speaker Patricia Harris, and our guest celebrant Fr Peter Dunn, and not forgetting the music ministry of Tanya Lawless.

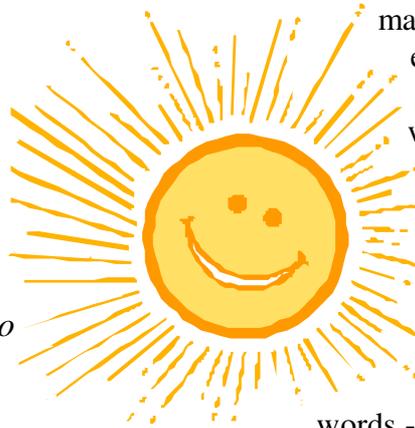
Tanya was so evidently moved by the Spirit that she helped all of us to really prepare our hearts for what God had prepared for us. Judging by the response of the gathering of forty people, I was not the only one who experienced a touch of heaven. It was edifying to have some young people in our midst also.

Heaven was the opening subject which Patricia explored as being the quest of every human soul who loves God and who truly desires to do God's will. She spoke gently and eloquently about the obstacles and barriers we put up in our own lives that seem to make our journey to eternity a struggle. My heart was moved when she witnessed to us of the many lessons God had to teach her, to keep her faithful in her spiritual Journey. Her method of presentation with the aids of dynamics like music, questioners, times of reflection and sharing resonated well with me being very much in line with the way we present our courses.

No doubt everyone present will agree that Fr Peter Dunn was is good too. His goodness shines through and his words of wisdom left us so riveted that even after a twenty minute homily we were still hanging on every word that flowed from his mouth.

Fr Peter is well known in the Adelaide Charismatic circles for his powerful preaching that seems to come from the Holy Spirit personified. Although semi retired due to having suffered a stroke some years ago, my invitation to come and celebrate Mass for us was met with great enthusiasm.

We truly thank God for his ministry as so many people were touched by his honesty and candid recollections of his early priesthood working side by side with Mother Teresa and her sisters in Calcutta. He reinforced my belief that our Faith Journey can only be authentic when we choose to take up our cross and follow Jesus. He recalled a time in Calcutta when he felt he had lost his faith as there was utter desolation in his soul and in his



words -

"I was sick of the sisters, I was sick of the priests, I was sick of the brothers and I was sick of the poor and so I went to Mother Teresa and told her that I don't know what I am doing here. Her response was, Father I have felt that for fifty years". He shared how he believes that what Mother Teresa experienced in her life was the Abandonment of Jesus on the Cross. "My God My God why have you forsaken me". Truly a living saint.

It made him realize that our relationship with God is not about how we are feeling but about how faithful we are to the call he places in our heart. He said our Christian journey is not about consolations but if we are to be truly followers of Jesus it is about keeping the faith in desolation. So much more I could write

What a day it was and what a day it will be when we meet Jesus face to face. Until that day we will walk with heads held high and continue to believe that God is walking our journey with us.

Blessings of Christmas to all!

The Beatitudes

- Gateway to the Sermon on the Mount.
- the answers to man's major questions in life: How can I become a Happy Person? Blessedness is our greatest good.

Bishop Colin Campbell,

Bishop of Dunedin, N.Z.

will speak on this theme at the annual

C.C.R. Retreat in January.

See back page for Retreat information.

MILL PARK on FIRE! Parish Evangelisation Conference, continued from p.1

On the Friday evening, a *Re-live!* Youth concert was held, organised by the youth of the parish. Three bands made loud noises for the Lord, Fr Keswick proved a popular MC, and a testimony by Andy Watkins inspired attendees.

On Saturday morning forty-five people attended a *Faith and Football Breakfast*. John Canavan entertained the crowd with funny songs and jokes, and added his testimony of conversion through reconciliation at Medjugorje. He then interviewed Kangaroo footballer, Daniel Wells, who spoke on his Catholic faith walk as well as his football career and regime.

At the Seniors Lunch, about a hundred people heard Bishop Joe speak, and saw a mime by Trish Spiteri.

On Saturday evening a Family concert was attended by eighty people. The Filipino Choir sang some beautiful songs, such as *You'll never walk alone*. Trish Spiteri and Samantha D'Cruz mimed a sign song: *Your Love O Lord*. Angela Moda gave her testimony of how Jesus changed her life. A popular part of the concert was a Youth Band from a local Baptist Church.

All the events aimed at reaching the audience with the message of the gospel, leading people closer to God.

In the afternoons registered attendees had a choice of visiting a nursing home with the parish choir, under the direction of Faye Gray, or in pairs visit parishioners' homes. About thirty people went visiting, and made contact with about one hundred and twenty parish families. As they returned there was a joy

radiating from those who had gone out in the name of Jesus. Not an easy task, but one which gives people an opportunity to listen, speak, witness and evangelise.

On Sunday the worship session was followed by a prayer for healing, parish mass, with a surprise visit of a group of eight colourfully dressed Sri Lankan girls, dancing the offertory procession to a beautiful worship song. Jan Heath spoke, and this was followed by a Parish BBQ, attended by about a hundred people. Robert Galea gave an inspiring concert, together with his testimony, of what life was like before his conversion. He ended singing his *'Foot of the Cross'*. There is room for all at the foot of the cross of Jesus. This may well sum up the theme of the conference, as Jesus has

come to save us all. After the concert Fr Eugene Ashkar led in Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a reflection and Benediction, at which Robert Galea ministered in song.

At the conclusion, grateful appreciation was expressed to the dozens of people who had contributed to the success of the weekend. Finally Fr Brendan Lane, PP and host for the conference, commissioned all the people to continue the important work of parish evangelisation.

We give thanks to the Lord for what many said was a 'fantastic', 'fresh', 'Spirit filled' event. We thank all those who prayed and interceded for its success. We hope that a Parish Evangelisation Conference can be repeated in many more Australian parishes!

Adrian Commadeur

PICK THE CHAMPION FOOTBALLER



Sorry you were wrong. It's actually the bloke in the middle, North Melbourne player, Daniel Wells.

Daniel, pictured here with Adrian Commadeur and Pat Kelly, shared his testimony at the Men's Breakfast at Mill Park during the Parish Evangelisation Conference. Daniel gave us an insight into his life as an elite footballer and shared how he came to faith in Jesus and was received into the Church. He was interviewed by hilarious comedian, John Canavan, who also shared his conversion story as well as keeping everyone in fits of laughter.

Pat Kelly

HOLY LAND or HOSTILE LAND?

By Sandra Bishop, Melbourne Graduate.

I'm just back from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land feeling that 'holy' is perhaps a word that could be replaced with another word – 'hostile'. This is the land inhabited by the Patriarchs; the land promised to Moses for the wandering Hebrews; the land of Kings and Prophets; the land where Jesus went about teaching and healing and training his Disciples.

The Israeli border crossing itself was a tedious business – security screening; questions asked; photos taken; guns always at the ready. All too soon one became aware of the many crossings between Israel and Palestine – blockades; guards with machine guns; barbed wire entanglements and high walls. Our up-market Jerusalem hotel was equipped with a bomb shelter in a central location on each floor.

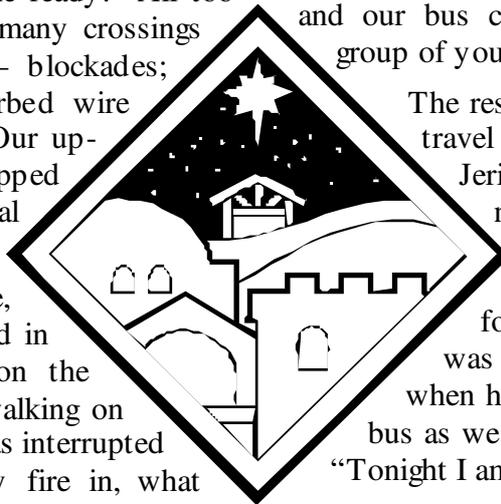
Way out on the Sea of Galilee, motors stopped, our boat floated in the haze while we reflected on the Scripture passage about Jesus walking on the water. Suddenly the quite was interrupted by the sound of heavy artillery fire in, what sounded to be, the not too far distance. There are two "Baptism sites" – one in Israel which is quite a commercial operation and the other (thought to be the authentic one) in Palestine, near Jericho, which is under military control and access is denied except for 1 day a year.

We found that it wasn't only the military who were into hostility. At the church of the Nativity,

Christ's birthplace, security had to be called in to sort out a very hostile, umbrella waving guide who was trying to get her group to jump the two hour long queue. We had been warned to expect trouble along the Via Dolorosa – the Way of the Cross – through the narrow winding streets of the old city of Jerusalem. It seems that pilgrims are welcome there if they make a purchase from the peddlers along the way, if not, you heard "Go home, get out of Jerusalem", or worse. Heading away from the Dome of the Rock, we were caught in a traffic jam and our bus copped a good thumping from a group of young Muslim men.

The residents of Bethlehem are unable to travel into Jerusalem. The farmers of Jericho say the Israeli farmers further north are using too much water and leaving them short. Our tour operator could only accompany us for a meal in Bethlehem because he was with tourists – struck me as odd when he came and sat next to me on the bus as we approached a checkpoint and said "Tonight I am your husband".

I have been left wondering what's ahead for this hostile land. Two thousand years ago there was "no room at the inn" **let us pray** this Christmas that there be room **for reconciliation**, for an end to hostility in Bethlehem and all of Palestine and Jerusalem and all of Israel and their neighboring countries. Let us also pray that Jerusalem, capital of Israel will live up to its name and be a **City of Peace**.



CONFERENCE CD'S Now Available

CD's of the keynote talks from the Parish Evangelisation Conference are now available.

Speakers: Bishop Chris Prowse, Bishop Joe Grech and Jan Heath.

Cost: \$24 for set of three or \$8 each, includes postage.

Please contact:

Adrian Commadeur 15 Holly Green Ct, East Keilor Vic 3033, ph 03 9337 2051

The Conference has created considerable interest with two parishes showing interest in holding a Parish Evangelisation Conference in their own parish.

Give 'ZENIT' as a Gift

It's an unbeatable combination to give something of great value without spending a cent.

Receive the daily ZENIT e-mail dispatch for free, and stay close to the Church and aware of its activities around the world.

**Gifts are rarely so unique and useful!
And it's completely free, both for you and your friends.**

To send ZENIT gift subscriptions, go to:

<http://www.zenit.org/english/gift.html>

ZENIT also available in other languages.

SHARING YOUR FAITH SEMINAR ... by Neil Hayter

In response to the recent call of the Australian Catholic Bishops for practicing Catholics to reach out more to non-Christians and inactive Catholics, the Catholic School of Evangelisation conducted a "Sharing Your Faith Seminar" at John XXIII Church on the weekend 30th & 31st August 2008.

Sixteen participants attended the Seminar – nine from the Para Hills Modbury parish and seven from other parishes. They were given teachings by a team from the School headed by Patrick Kelly, National Director, and Carmen Sylvester, S.A. Co-ordinator.

The teachings were aimed at providing the participants with practical ideas as to how to share their faith with family and friends e.g.:

- * The key components of relational evangelisation.
- * Identifying their individual style of evangelisation.
- * How to build relationships and start spiritual conversations in order to effectively evangelise.

- * How to present the Gospel message simply and lead people in prayer to commit their lives to Jesus.
- * How to give their personal testimony in a simple and concise way.
- * Understanding the essential role of prayer and the Holy Spirit in evangelisation.

The talks were enhanced by a meaningful period each day in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The overall feedback evaluations by the participants were very favourable as typified by the following comments:

"Wonderful weekend – so many practical aspects of evangelisation were given."

"Thanks for such an informative course. Great organization, preparation and presentation. Felt very comfortable and it was so great to meet so many wonderful people."

"The help to get over the step to bring Jesus in to other's lives was very good and will be with me from now on."

APOLLOS - A Great Success

The Apollos course in Northcote, Vic. on Effective Teaching at Prayer Meetings over two Saturdays in October and November was a great success.



Participants at the Apollos course preparing their talks

Twenty-six participants began the course, and 16 finished it. The homework after the first Saturday was to prepare their testimonies. The first thing on the November Saturday was to present them in small groups. Everyone was well prepared and presented their material. Several said that they had shared something they had never shared anywhere else before, and they found it a healing event. The first day featured the 'what' of the teachings, i.e. what type of messages could be prepared. Also a session was devoted to the 'how', of making talks more interesting with visualization, etymology, contrasts and dramatization. Everyone was taught the secrets of a good testimony and the four parts of it.

On the second day, after listening to some exciting and moving testimonies, the sessions turned

to presenting the eight-fold structure of a good talk. These included segments on motivation, scripture, setting, application, illustration, summary, invitation

and prayer. The sessions seemed to interest the participants greatly. Some said they 'enjoyed every minute of it'. It seems that some of the secrets of speaking at prayer groups, really enthused participants. They gave the presenter high marks for the sample talk, which dealt with the Importance of Teaching the Word of God, which has the power to transform lives and society.

The final session dealt with the spirituality of the teacher, which is meant to be that of John the Baptist, "I must decrease, and He (Jesus) must increase." We are meant to place our focus on Jesus, not on ourselves. Whether we have success or failure in public speaking, it is of the greatest to give all glory to Jesus. All the participants were to submit their prepared 8 segment talk. I am sure that they will do very well.

Adrian Commadeur.

“ LOVE IN ACTION ” - INTERNATIONAL I.C.C.R.S. CONFERENCE **in Kkottongnae, South Korea – June, 1st—9^h 2009**

This major I.C.C.R.S. event, open to all, offers a unique opportunity to experience the face of God through “Love in Action”. It is being organised by I.C.C.R.S. in conjunction with the Kkottongnae Religious Charismatic Community, a Congregation of Brothers and Sisters of Jesus, caring for over 4000 abandoned people in South Korea. Brother James Shin, MD, Superior of the Congregation is a member of the I.C.C.R.S. Council. Speakers will include Cardinal Paul Cordes, President of Cor Unum, Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-Suk, Archbishop of Seoul, Bishop Joe Grech, Bishop of Sandhurst, and Michelle Moran, President of I.C.C.R.S.

This multi faceted event which will be held in various Community sites including the Grand Auditorium will provide simultaneous translation in five languages for all talks and presentations. The music ministry will include a youth team of musicians and singers who will minister from a list of international songs already translated and being used in Korea. Accommodation in the Conference

complex, will be in two community centres: “The Love Retreat Centre” and the “Institute of Love”.

Apart from the daily Eucharist and various talks and workshops, the program includes a Festival of Praise, Korean worship and traditional dances, silent adoration, three workshop streams concentrating on healing, intercession, and charisms. There will also be a special youth stream. Various testimonies, youth ministry, drama on evangelisation, visit to various sites and voluntary service to the poor, will be features. The last few days will provide an opportunity for Evangelistic Pilgrimages to the Diocese.

Further details regarding the program and Registration cost will soon be available at the C.C.R. Centre, ph. 03 9629 2544. However, thanks to the kind and generous cooperation of the Kkottongnae Community we can predict that the Registration Fee/Accommodation and Meals costs, all inclusive of translation service, transport from and to the Airport, pilgrimages and voluntary service will be at a minimum.

Claude Lopez, C.C.R.

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2009

| DATE | COURSE | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Feb. 13 th —14 th | Secret of Paul | Albion Park, NSW | Paul 02 4297 1570 |
| Feb. 21 st —22 nd Feb.28 th —Mch. 1 st | Formation of Disciples | Keilor Downs, Vic | Adrian 03 9337 2051 |
| Lent | Formation of Disciples | St. John's Pk. NSW | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| Lent | Formation of Disciples | Modbury, S.A. | Camen 08 8339 2573 |
| Lent | Secret of Paul | St. Mary's NSW | Lucy 02 9670 4440 |
| Lent | Secret of Paul | Pymble, NSW | Jill 02 9449 8098 |
| Lent | New Life | Pymble, NSW | Jill 02 9449 8098 |
| March 28 th —29 th | New Life | Noarlunga S.A. | Camen 08 8339 2573 |
| March | New Life | Bendigo, Vic | Gerri 02 6056 2442 |

PLEASE PROMOTE THE COURSES IN YOUR AREA.



The S.O.E. Teams wish all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Rejoice A Child is born!

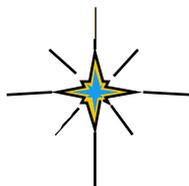


Catholic School of Evangelisation
P.O. Box 168
Wonthaggi 3995
Phone 03 5672 2772

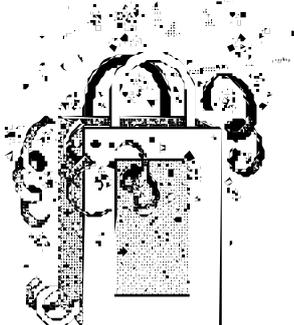
THE WITNESS

PRINT
POST
PP: 331213 / 00006

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



**Jesus is the best
Gift of all.**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Retreat

Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, East Brunswick

Mon – Fri 19th – 23rd Jan. 2009, 9.30 am to 5 pm.

Guest speaker:
Bishop Colin
Campbell
of Dunedin, N.Z.

There will be two major talks,
exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
Mass and Homily.

Theme:
The Beatitudes —
The Way of
Discipleship.

Cost: Full registration: \$90 or \$20 per day.
Registration form from CCR Centre, 631 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000,
Phone: 96292544