



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Newsletter
January 2011

Bishop Joe Grech, 1948 - 2010

By Adrian Commadeur

A Bishop for the People: He made our hearts burn with love for God.

In March 1994 I received one of those phone calls that was destined to change my life. "Would I like to go to Rome for training for the School of Evangelisation for 40 days?" This was the question asked by Fr. Joe Grech. He had only recently returned from studying in Rome and had become chaplain to CCR, and began the School of Evangelisation, first in Italian in 1993, then in English in 1994.

The phone call changed my life and ministry. In June and July 1994, at Rocca di Papa near Rome, we attended five different courses of the School of Evangelisation presented by the founder of the St Andrew School of Evangelisation, Jose 'Pepe' Prado Flores, as well as the healing priest, Fr Emilien Tardif MSC and leaders of the Koimonia John the Baptist. During the course of 40 days, Fr Joe's mother fell ill in Malta, and he spent the last few days of her life with her. He returned just in time to take the last course on the "Methodology of the KeKaKo School of Evangelisation". A very moving event took place, perhaps foreshadowing Fr Joe's future.

At the end of the course, all were encouraged to pray aloud the prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola, 'Take O Lord, my liberty...' Before praying this prayer, Fr Joe began to shake almost uncontrollably, and I went up to him and placed my arms around his shoulders. As he shook for some time, he gradually

quieted down and eventually was able to surrender himself in the words of this prayer. I had rarely seen Fr Joe express any other emotion than love and laughter. This was a spiritual moment of great significance, when he surrendered his life anew to the Lord, replacing his own will with the will of God.

On return to Australia, the work of the School of Evangelisation exploded, with courses conducted in most states of Australia, and later overseas. During this period Fr Joe was the chaplain to CCR and a wise counsellor. While in the Philippines for a third time, in 1997 he received instructions to contact the Archbishop. It was then he was appointed as Rector of Corpus Christi College. He continued to advise the School of Evangelisation teams, and the various branches that sprouted from Melbourne.

As a teacher in the School he had a great capacity to relate to the students, and allowed the lay members of the team as much latitude as necessary. He trusted them. He also mentored them and had a knack of getting the most out of the students and fellow teachers like myself. I never saw him lose his temper, though he did not like conflict. He endeared himself to many, and sadly he lost a number of close collaborators, whose loss he grieved over greatly. Many women surrounded and supported him, just like Jesus, and he loved and appreciated their concern for him.

In 1999 Fr. Joe was appointing an auxiliary bishop for Melbourne. He is reported to have held his

hands to his ears and exclaimed: "What am I going to do, what am I going to do?" When his close priest friend and confidant said that it was not a calling for him, but he was being called for the people, his anxiety waned and agreed to become bishop. His ordination in St Patrick's Cathedral was a magnificent, if not triumphant, liturgical event, as Fr Joe had become both popular and inspirational, especially within Charismatic circles. He was loved by multicultural groups, Italian, Spanish, Croatian and of course Maltese.

While Bishop of the Western Region of Melbourne, he was appointed to Sandhurst in 2001. In the meantime he was appointed as the Oceania representative on the International CCR Council, which regularly meets in Rome. In this position he became internationally known, loved and appreciated in all corners of the world, as a popular, inspirational speaker from the heart, at conferences, retreats, and meetings.

Bishop Joe died on 28 December 2010 after a week long illness, leaving thousands to grieve his loss, as every person could consider him a friend. Once during the course on Moses, which he himself translated from the Spanish, he said that he would like to have said about him on his tombstone, not just that he was a nice fellow, but the "**He made our hearts burn with love for God.**"



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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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.

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:

- ▶ FORM DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAIN EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISH PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS.

Bishop Joe Grech: A Departed Friend

By Pat Kelly

I suppose everyone is still reeling from the news of the sudden death of Bishop Joe Grech. It was such a shock, one day you hear that he is not well and the next thing the news comes through that he has died. We seem to have lost him in his prime with so much to offer to the Church. Still God knows what he is doing and his thoughts and ways are far above our own.

I first met Bishop Joe in 1995 when he came to Warragul to run a three week John – Paul course which led to the establishment of the School of Evangelisation in the Diocese of Sale. Right from the start you could see his gift was to motivate people, to lift them up out of themselves and inspire them to be open to the Holy Spirit and to go beyond what seems to be possible, to “Think big” as Bishop Joe would say.

To me three qualities stand out; his love for Jesus, his commitment to evangelisation and his openness and generosity. In this issue I have gone back through the past issues of the Witness and reprinted several articles by Bishop Joe which emphasis these qualities.

There is no doubt that the Catholic School of Evangelisation exists because of Bishop Joe’s vision.

He saw the need: that the practice of the faith was shrinking so rapidly that there was a very real danger of it dying out in Australia. The life of the Church would be reduced to some sort of hollow liturgical-social-educational function which failed to bring people to that transforming encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus that is at the heart of our faith.

He saw the solution: Train our parishioners in Kerygmatic Evangelisation. The basis fundamental message of the School: **God loves us; Sin** prevents us from experiencing that love; **Jesus destroyed the power of sin and death** by his death and resurrection; We need to respond with **Faith** and by being **Converted** to a new life in the **Holy Spirit** as part of community of the **Church**. How many times did Bishop Joe hammer the message of the kerygma home while teaching School courses. He even took his seminarians through the courses during their holidays.

Thirdly he actually did something practical to put the solution into effect – he brought the School of Evangelisation to Australia. His vision was that the laity would be trained and mobilised to bring the Risen Jesus to our world, that our parishes would be filled with Catholics on fire with the Holy Spirit, responding to our call to evangelise. That evangelisation would become the first priority of our parishes in FACT not just in theory.

The best way we can remember and thank Bishop Joe is by fulfilling this dream and this is our New Year’s resolution for the Catholic School of Evangelisation – to make our parishes evangelising parishes, communities where Jesus is loved and proclaimed with generous hearts.



Commitment to Evangelise

Extract from October Witness 1997 by Fr. Joe Grech

On Sunday, 19th October, the Pope will proclaim St Therese of Liseux a Doctor of the Church. The Doctors of the Church are certain men and women who are revered by the church for the special value of their writings, preaching and the sanctity of the lives. These include saints like St Bernard of Clairvaux, St Catherine of Siena, St Francis de Sales and St Theresa of Avila.

St Therese of Liseux died at the age of 24. How could a person so young become a Doctor of the Church? The answer lies in her autobiography entitled, *The Story of a Soul*, a book which I strongly recommend for reading and for reflection.

When we start reading her story, the one thing that clearly stands out is that whatever she did, she did it with a passionate love for Jesus. Her intimate relationship with Jesus Christ proved the moving factor in anything that she found herself immersed in. Whether in prayer, working in the fields, cleaning the convent or sick in bed, her single motivation was a perfect love for God.

One of her great dreams was to be a missionary, "I have the vocation of the Apostle, I would like to travel over the whole earth to preach your name" (Diary, 8th September, 1896). She was never able to go to the missions yet she never lost sight of this dream. Even while she was sick in bed, she interceded

for the work of the church all over the world. Her heart was so much on fire to spread the good news of Jesus Christ that, even though she never left the Carmelite Monastery at Liseux, Pope Pius XI named her patroness of all foreign missions. This is how God works. He would put His desires into our hearts, and He would fulfil those desires in ways that are beyond our ways of thinking and imagining.

We have also been given a burning desire in our hearts to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord using all the creative gifts that God has given us. At times we might feel at a loss as to how we can put into practise this desire that lies so deep within us. We can get disheartened. We can easily give up. The temptation would be to water down this desire. However, we need to remember that the desire to evangelise is our personal call by this God who is forever yearning to extend

His love and His healing to all. You and I have been called specifically to continue this particular work of Jesus Christ animated by His Spirit fully alive in all of us. May Our God keep the flame to spread the good news burning brightly within our hearts.

I thank each one of you for putting so much prayer, love and work in the area of evangelisation. I bless you all in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

the desire to evangelise is our personal call by God...

Fr. Joe reflect's on

Jesus' Commitment Example

Extract from December Witness 1997

I am becoming more aware that Jesus did not simply issue invitations to those who desire to follow him. He demanded allegiance, demanded a change of heart and mind, demanded a decision to follow him. Commitment was very much a high priority with him. He was committed to his Father's Will. He knew what exactly was in stall for him in Jerusalem. Yet he never walked away from this commitment. Jesus asked for the same attitude from his followers.

Though necessary and indispensable, the idea of commitment also invokes fear and uncertainty. This may be because commitment challenges us to make decisions. It makes us realise where our priorities lie and it also makes us step forward, relying solely on a total trust in God. Commitment challenges us to leave what has perhaps been comfortable for us, in order to let ourselves be led into the unknown, always believing and trusting that God knows what is best for us.



Evangelisation demands such an attitude from all of us. Commitment to spread the good news is paramount for all of us who proclaim to be the followers of Jesus. Therefore, I urge each one of you to take every opportunity in order to make Jesus Christ known to others. However, the work of Evangelisation becomes more powerful when it is exercised by people working together, united in one heart and in one Spirit. Over the past 12 months there has been a growing desire among people who are involved in cell groups to express their willingness to commit themselves to the work of Evangelisation as cell groups in a formal way.

Jesus demands that our response needs to be made as a loving gesture. May every member of all cell groups be ready for such a call. May all of us continue to be blessed in our work with Jesus Christ, in our Parishes, in our Prayer Groups and in the area of Evangelisation. May God bless you all.

Individualistic, Relativistic, Secularist – Is there an alternative? By Adrian Commadeur

“Our society is increasingly influenced by secularism, individualism and relativism. Many people are seemingly happy with this situation.

Secularism can mean living for this world alone. Enjoying life. Getting the most out of life. What’s wrong with that?

Individualism means focusing on myself. This is all about the most important person in the world: me! I make decisions on the basis of what is best for me. What’s wrong with that?

And relativism means that I seek out my own truth – what works for me. You can have your truth. I will have my truth. I will live according to what I believe to be right. What’s wrong with that?”

Bishop Julian Porteous of Sydney began his keynote address to the Parishes on Fire Conference at St Clement of Rome, Bulleen in early October 2010, with these words. He spoke about the spirit of this age in terms of three ‘isms’: secularism, individualism, and relativism.

In reflecting on these characteristics of the modern world we see the evidence all around. We need three antidotes to this spirit of the age. Happily I found these antidotes in the three themes of the conference, which are the three key characteristics of the School of Evangelisation. These three components offer a Christian response to the ‘isms of the age’: Charisms, Community and Kerygma or KeKaKo (from the Spanish): Kerygma, Karisma and Koinonia.

Relativism means that I seek out my own truth – what works for me. Truth is relative it is claimed, you have your truth, I have my

truth. Recently on the radio talkback, discussing the homosexual lifestyle, one woman insisted that it was not ‘normal’, (meaning not natural as designed by God). A young man rang next and said that for him this lifestyle was completely ‘normal’ (meaning a lifestyle many have taken up and are used to). Who has the objective truth in this matter? Only the Kerygma, the message of the Gospel of Jesus, expresses the real, objective, divinely revealed truth of God’s purposes for his people. The Kerygma alone can be considered TRUE, objectively true. Acceptance of revealed truth, as taught in the Bible and authentically explained by the Church, leads to the inner freedom promised by Jesus, *and the Truth shall set you free.* (Jn 8,32). Like Jesus, however, we accept his truth, while at the same time loving those who do not accept the Truth of Jesus, nor live accordingly.

Secularism can mean living for this world alone. Enjoying life and getting the most out of life. It means that I find my happiness only in the values of this world, the pleasures it can give. With little space for the spiritual, there is no place for the life in the Spirit. Society is very much focussed on enjoying the things of this world: holidays, travel, eating out, advancing in career and status, building a bank balance. Secularism sets a contrast, if not

conflict, between living for *pleasure* and living by *principle*. So the question arises, when are we rich, healthy, enjoying life enough? Many converts to Jesus testify that the world never offers complete satisfaction. In contrast Karisma, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, meet the innermost desires of the heart. Fulfilment can truly be found in experiencing the Holy Spirit producing profound love, peace and joy. The spiritual gifts, the charisms, also are the antidote to secularism, since the action of the Holy Spirit heals the sick, performs miracles, provides guidance, speaks wisdom and produces the fruit of joy and peace sought for but rarely found in secularism.

Individualism means focussing on myself. It is about the most important person in the world, ME. Another word could be used – selfishness, or again narcissism (a disordered self – love). Popular psychology and new age practices focuses on the importance of self. The secret of a happy life is not self-love, but love of God and of others. Koinonia, or Christian Community provides the arena where love is expressed in practice. Being in community, be it family, parish, covenant or prayer group, association, sodality – all are ways of expressing unconditional love. In giving of oneself in Christian Community, and receiving love from others, is found the antidote to individualism. Communes based on a certain lifestyle are not the answer as they inevitably lead to excess.

John Pridmore, a recent UK visitor from Ireland, used to be a typical ‘relativistic, individualistic secularist’ until God intervened as a result of his mother’s prayers. Baptised but not raised a Catholic,

Continued p.5 . . .



Above: L. to R. Pat Kelly, Anselmo Ruspicioni, Franka Waters, Adrian Commadeur, Tony Grieve

PARISHES ON FIRE Conference - Bulleen

By Beth Fivaz

I attended the Bulleen parish conference on the first of three days. We praised & worshipped led by the



wonderful music ministry 'Allure' and enjoyed inspiring talks by Bishop Julian Porteous of Sydney. We also shared in a beautiful Mass with Fr. Wahid Riad (PP) and Bishop Porteous.

I was impressed by the Evangelistic fervour of Bishop Porteous and those who join him for public witness in the streets, buses etc of Sydney. He spoke of proposing the Christian faith to others rather than imposing and how difficult it can be to break through the modern individualistic & secular thinking that doesn't see a need for God's salvation.

Then, it came time to do our own witnessing as we went out in pairs to visit the homes of some of the recent First Communicants of Bulleen Parish. At our first home the distressed mother told us her husband had just come home from a hospital admission after a heart attack – we explained that we had come because Fr Wahid wanted to reach out to his parishioners with Jesus' love and that he will soon visit them. At our next two homes the children were home alone, so we simply explained who we were and why we there & promised a return visit when their parents were home. Our final visit was a major experience – the lady was an 'on fire' Catholic migrant who had been very disappointed in the unfriendly attitude of the Bulleen parishioners and had plenty to say on how the Catholic church could improve – she became interested in being part of the School of Evangelisation!

I have no doubt that the visits brought the Lord Jesus to each adult or child in a special way and I certainly felt very blessed in being a witness and messenger of love for Him.

Conference Brings Deep Peace

By Imelda Hsieh

Over the past three days of the Parishes on Fire Conference held at St. Clement's Bulleen, I experienced a series of deep peace in all of my being. I had a great desire to leave everything to the Lord and to entrust myself entirely to the journey ahead that he has prepared for me. I felt and continue to feel a strong sense of wanting to extend myself to my fellow brothers and sisters. I feel that my whole person has taken on a great change. It has been a wonderful experience.

The Bulleen parishioners were very blessed to have more gifted speakers, special luncheons, cultural & youth events & Masses and home visits over the weekend. The seed was sown and we pray the Holy Spirit will begin to move & grow more powerfully amongst that congregation. We pray the Lord will bless Fr. Wahid abundantly for His faithfulness and bless the Bulleen parish workers and the SOE for their hard work and dedication to His Gospel.



Individualistic, Relativistic, Secularist

..... Continued from p.4

he ended up with a penthouse, flat, sports car, live-in girlfriends and more money than he could use. A drug criminal of high order, John looked for false gods. He was on crack cocaine, smoked dope, drank heavily, mixed with the roughest till he hit a man and thought that he killed him. There the truth hit him: "What have I become, that I could kill someone and not even care?" He became aware of the voice of God speaking to his heart. "I felt the Holy Spirit, the love of God, and in that moment I wanted more of it." This conversion experience led him first to confess all his sins (the priest wept), began to attend and receive Jesus in the Eucharist, and ended joining Community in Ireland, committing to poverty, celibacy and obedience!

A big turnaround for a big man of crime. For him the truth of the Kerygma of God's love in Jesus, his experience of the Holy Spirit in Karisma, and his current experience of Christian Koinonia, demonstrate that the antidote to the spirit of the world is KeKaKo.

The School of Evangelisation tries to promote this triple antidote to the spirit of the world. By its emphasis on Kerygma, Karisma and Koinonia, we are providing a way out for the "relativistic, individualistic secularist" who seeks happiness in what cannot give happiness. The world is breaking the 10 Commandments, and is thereby in danger of losing its soul. May the School continue to bring a message of hope to this world, especially through Building Evangelising Parish Communities, through KeKaKo.

Christmas Carols Welcomed at Nursing Home

By Adrian Commadeur



and cardboard cut -outs of an ass and an ox. About 30 residents attended, including a pastor visiting a resident. The whole team went around



An unexpected outcome of the evangelising visit to the Lower Plenty Valley Views Nursing Home during the Parishes on Fire Conference, was a repeat invitation.

Originally facilitated by a Bulleen Parish member, Pam Mitchell, who is a pastoral visitor there, one of the activities organisers, Angela, was impressed by the way our musicians ministered. She gave the group a repeat invitation for Christmas. She hinted that our evangelisation effort was gentle and acceptable. So Marie Neal, her daughter Anne Marie, husband Graham and two granddaughters were joined by

Joseph and Mary (Adrian Commadeur & Maria Luff) and John Luff in an half hour of 9 songs. Included in the repertoire were favourite Christmas carols, both happy and spiritual, and the invitation song *Come Lord Jesus, be bom in our hearts*. During the session we prayed blessings of good health and harmony for residents and staff.

wishing all a Happy and Holy Christmas, and Pam distributed a number of paper crib foldouts which the residents could have near their beds.

There was a special atmosphere of love and peace and joy, and we thank the team for their contributions and participation and the nursing home for their welcome.

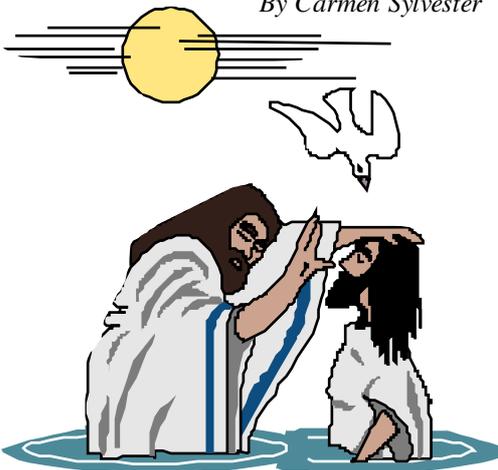
John Luff made a beautiful star,

John The Baptist - Noarlunga S. A.

By Carmen Sylvester

On 18th September the Adelaide Team conducted the John the Baptist Testimony course at the Noarlunga Parish. With a mixture of young and mature participants it was a wonderful opportunity to remind ourselves of the most basic and fundamental duty of every baptised Christian to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist and proclaim our faith.

This retreat is perhaps better described as a workshop as it helped us all to workshop our testimony so



as we can all become confident and self assured when the opportunity present itself and the Holy Spirit prompts us to share our story.

I believe this retreat is a great recap for all participants of previous Formation of Evangelisers courses to re familiarise themselves with the points of the kerygma, so necessary to present an authentic witness with the sole objective of bringing others to conversion.

Adelaide Celebrates Christmas in the Mall, 2010



A Baby in the Manger

Twenty-second November and the Feast of Christ the King: The Rundle Mall in Adelaide was once more alive with the Sound of Music as we embarked on the 9th **Celebrate Emmanuel** outreach. Once again the acts were brilliant, the children sweet and angelic and Santa got the crowds and the children excited. One of the most moving experiences of the day was when a young mother (Archie Siow) decided that we should have a live baby Jesus and placed her eight month old baby boy Jonathan in the manger.

Carmen Sylvester



JOHN BREHENY R.I.P.

by Pat Kelly

The last months of 2010 have been sad ones for the School, not only did we suffer the loss of Bishop Joe but another great worker for the School, John Breheny, died in November. For a number of years John was secretary of the School and maintained the School database. His wife, Anna, was editor of the Witness and they opened their home in Glen Waverley to host our executive meetings. They were good times and I have happy memories of the involvement of John with the School, he was a great support to me as School secretary.

In a beautiful eulogy at his funeral, Anna, shared the key to John's life, FAITH: Faith in God, in the Church, in family and in people. It was a faith well wrapped in love and a spirit of loving service and joy.

Please keep Anna and their four children in your prayers as they adjust to this new phase in their life, we know that they will face it with complete confidence in God's love.

In memory of John Breheny

"...In every deed and every thought, act as though you were to die this very day. Blessed is he who keeps the moment of death ever before his eyes and prepares for it every day. Be always ready, therefore, and so live, that death will never take you unprepared. Keep your heart free and raise it up to God, for you have not here a lasting home. To Him direct your daily prayers, your sighs and tears, that your soul may merit, after death, to pass in happiness to the Lord."

From the book 'The Imitation of Christ'.

New Life In Narre Warren By Melesete Jerome

I am very humble and sincerely blessed by my encounter with the Almighty on the 6th-7th November 2010 at the New Life course, Narre Warren which was conducted by the Catholic School of Evangelization.



Our God is truly an awesome God, I welcome our Heavenly Fathers' love this weekend Nov 6th-7th with my whole being, because I know He does not judge me no matter how great my sins. When I received my 'heart' I was not surprised at my scripture reading which was Jer. 29:13, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*" Prior to the weekend I have often sat in front of the Blessed Sacrament and just looked at Jesus and I constantly asked him a question. Ok Jesus I know you have found me - but have I found you? So with my heart in my hand I let out a sign, it was a sign of relief and a confirmation for me, knowing that he is hearing me and Jesus is with me always.

Brother Pat introduced the mud exercise (Psalm 103:4). **Delivers your life from the pit.** My life was truly in a pit. Right at that very moment my Lord lifted me out of it. Instead of the Prodigal son, I put myself there as a lost child and Jesus embraced me with open arms, my Father has no favourites he loves us no matter what our struggles, difficulties, sin, temptation etc... While I was writing my sins in a piece of paper I was somewhat happy and relieved knowing that they will be forgiven and for Jesus to carry and they will be left at the foot of His cross. I tell you it wasn't a pleasant experience either, sister Cathy reached out for my piece of paper as I was seated upfront I hesitated and felt very sad and selfish, knowing my sins alone will cost Jesus more agony and more blood

shed.

Our God is Love, because he saves us from the devil and from ourselves. I felt the Holy Spirit's presence with me strongly throughout the afternoon, because my Father said in his letter that my sinfulness does not stop His love for me, I can honestly say that I am a proud born again Christian, willing and waiting for the next step in my journey with my Lord. On Sunday morning I woke up with 'The Lord is my Light and my Salvation' verse in my head, and I carried that with me throughout the morning. Not only is Jesus my Light, He is my Salvation and I have to seek Him with all my heart, that was my goal.

Then comes the boat exercise I felt this is the time to really give everything that I **felt, done** and the rest to Jesus knowing that He is my Light and He is my Salvation. I was standing at the foot of the cross covered with His precious blood, while burning all my burdens, it was overwhelming, you just have to be present and willing to experience his Love because there is nothing like it. During our praise and worship I heard 'change my

heart oh Lord, and make it ever new'. My heart longs for Jesus love and experiencing his presence and His healing touch really made me cry like a baby. He was with me, holding me, His child and letting me know everything is better with Him in my life.

I highly recommend anyone that is wondering and lost at where this life is taking you to attend one of the seminars you will never know unless you attend. Psalm 37:4 "*Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your hearts desire.*" There are no words that I can explain the feeling of our Lords' touch, and presence, you just have to trust and surrender and let Him guide you.

During our Proclamation it took me a while to let go of my crown, I wanted it to be a proclamation from the heart, sister Cathy said Jesus understands and he knows of your intentions, so I let go and just surrendered fully to Jesus. I went out with a clearer appreciation of my surrounding I felt drops of rain, it gave me shivers because my Lord was blessing me with the rain, and I commented on how beautiful nature was and felt like I was walking on air with the Lord. I am forever grateful and praises for Jesus my Redeemer and Saviour, WOW there is no one like Him and I cannot thank him enough.

May our Good Lord Bless each and everyone that will be reading my story and may your experience with Him be just as good or better than mine. Just one thing I know for sure is that our GOD is a Loving GOD.



Personal Reflection

New Life Course - Narre Warren

By Tes Halili

My favourite Bible passage is Psalm 27 verse 4: ***“The one thing I ask of the Lord - the thing I seek most - is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.”***

Once again my desire to seek the Lord was answered when I attended the New Life course held at our parish of Our Lady Help of Christians Narre Warren during the weekend of 6th—7th November 2010, led by the School of Evangelisation. Every course is different. The Holy Spirit never runs out of blessings to pour out His gifts and His fruits, but only to open and willing hearts.

My first Life in the Spirit Seminar was in September 2000 in Hampton Park where I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was personally touched by our Lord that through His Holy Spirit, He gave me the gift of faithful and humble service. Before joining the Narre Warren Prayer Group my husband Rey and I had already been serving in the Parish providing music at the Sunday 11am Mass. After my renewal in 2000, I was inspired to become a member of the Narre Warren Prayer Group and help out in their music ministry and in some parish and prayer group projects that needed my time, talent and treasure from that time on up until present time.

The New Life course conducted by the School of Evangelisation held on the weekend of November 6th & 7th gave me new life. In Jesus Christ, we are always a new

creation. This is what I had experienced during this weekend. God said in His personal letter to me - ***“Your sinfulness does not stop my love. I will wash your wounds. I suffer your loneliness.”*** Literally when I read these words I had goose bumps. I was so overwhelmed with this message. For the last few days before this course, I felt so sinful and ugly and spiritually dirty. I even felt that I did not deserve to serve the Lord the way I am doing because I am not really worthy. I no longer felt loved and accepted by the Lord Himself. But when I read this letter, the words just lifted out of the page and spoke to me clearly. God truly spoke to me. How I felt then was indescribable by words. There was this peace that surpassed understanding. I felt so comforted and clean and everything became clear. I know He listened to the cry of my anguished heart for His mercy and His love. He gave me back His Holy Spirit and I could feel this special joy in my heart once again.

From this seminar, through His beautiful instruments – the School of Evangelisation and the OLHC Servant Community (Narre Warren Prayer Group) and the OLHC Parish, I personally thank the Holy Triune God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit together with our Blessed Mother, all the saints and angels, for receiving the gift of forgiveness – ***yes, that I can forgive and that I am forgiven.....forever.....***

FAITH ON FIRE - Fr Jack Soulsby



By Carmen
Sylvester

November 6th was Adelaide's final Faith on Fire Seminar for 2010. Our guest speaker all the way from Brisbane was none other than the dynamic Father Jack Soulsby. For those who have experienced the ministry of Father Jack you would know that our day was one of much joy, fun, but also great challenge.

It was a wonderful uplifting seminar where nearly fifty people came to listen to Fr. Jack relate the need to acknowledge how wonderful God has made us, the gifts He has endowed us with including the gift of evangelising and the urgent need to use those gifts. In a world where every possible crime and cruelty is committed every minute, where so many don't know of Our Saviour, our Godly behaviour can be a witness. We may probably never know the consequences of it. Fr Jack challenged us to always remember that 'I am who God says I am', His Child and heir to his kingdom. An important quote from Fr Jack: 'I am in the business of populating Paradise'. Another, 'Every problem is an opportunity in disguise'.



Narre Warren Prayer Group Music Ministry

PERSONAL PRAYER COURSE

By Lucy Grasso - Co-ordinator



Peace Prayer Group, Greystanes

The Sydney School of Evangelisation conducted two Personal Prayer Courses during August and September 2010. The first course was at Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group, Greystanes, conducted over four morning sessions, presented by Lucy & Eddie Grasso, followed by fellowship over lunch. The second course was conducted at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, over the week-end of Friday evening 25th and Saturday 26th September, presented by Eddie & Lucy Grasso and Fr Bob Bossini, SDB, PP. Those who attended found the course spiritually uplifting, giving them practical tools and guidelines to enhance their spiritual and prayer life, and personal relationship with God.

The following was some feedback received from the Greystanes Prayer Group:

"It has motivated me to pray

more". "I now have a greater thirst for the word of God."

"It gave me a better understanding of the importance of praying."

"I feel equipped with practical tools for praying."

"It has educated me on the different ways of prayer."

"The directions and information was very clear and practical and I have learnt to pray using my whole body."

"The personal sharing, delivery and dynamics of the presenters Lucy and Eddie Grasso was so captivating that there was a unanimous vote for the speakers to

return. The group thanked Lucy and Eddie and look forward to more courses conducted through the Catholic School of Evangelisation, Sydney."

Desiree Molloy - Overall Leader

The Catholic School of Evangelisation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Fr Bob Bossini on his new appointment for 2011 as Parish Priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes. Thank you Fr Bob for your love and support over the last five years, for making the CSOE Team feel so welcomed in your Parish at St Marys. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to be of service in presenting the 'Parish Evangelisation Formation Program' and other Courses to the Parishioners. We also thank you for your dedication and inspired teachings you presented in being a part of the CSOE Team in the Paramatta Diocese. May God bless you abundantly in your new Mission. Keeping you in our prayers!



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish participants, St. Mary's

Gosford Parish Learns From John the Baptist

The Pymble Parish School of Evangelisation presented the John the Baptist Witness Course at East Gosford Parish on Saturday 23rd October. The Course teaches people how to give an effective testimony. Testimonies are powerful tools of evangelisation. 'What Jesus has done for me he can do for you!'

During the day Participants came to focus on specific ways God worked in their lives and learned how to share their stories with others.

The Parish Priest, Fr Tadeusz Seremet, spent the day with us and

provided us with a beautiful lunch. All agreed it had been a blessed day.

Jill Seymour



Bishop Joe Seeks Support

Extract from July Witness 1999

Pace of the Lord be with you all. I thank the Lord for all the work that all of you are doing to spread the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord. In this issue of the newsletter I would like to ask for your assistance in a most special way. The Scriptures teaches us that everything belongs to God, (Deut.10:14) and that we are stewards or administrators of the goods that the Lord has blessed us with. (1Cor.4:1-2,7; Lev.25:25). If we are administrators then the Lord expects us to set aside part of what we have so that it would be used to promote His Kingdom. Scripture asks for 10%, or what we normally call tithing. The Lord asks us to set aside some of our time and talent so that we can continue His work. This is the reason why we are constantly encouraged to participate at the Eucharist, prayer meetings, schools of evangelisation, seminars, retreats and conferences. These things are a must so that our minds can be continuously formed by Jesus Christ.

The Lord also asks us to set aside 10% of our money to continue his mission in our day. I am well aware that all of us are supporting our parishes, CCR and other innumerable works of charity. This is something to be encouraged, promoted and where possible increased. At the same time, I am making an appeal for all those who have taken part in the School of Evangelisation to reflect whether we can further help the mission of the schools through a financial contribution. The work of the different schools is expanding all the time. At times we cannot go to certain places because of lack of funds.

Let each one of us bring this matter to prayer first. The Lord will show us what our contribution should be. This contribution could be made once a year or on a regular basis. Let us all remember that what we offer to the Lord will be blessed a hundredfold. Therefore any contributions to continue the work of Jesus Christ, whether financial or otherwise, will be accompanied by abundant blessings.

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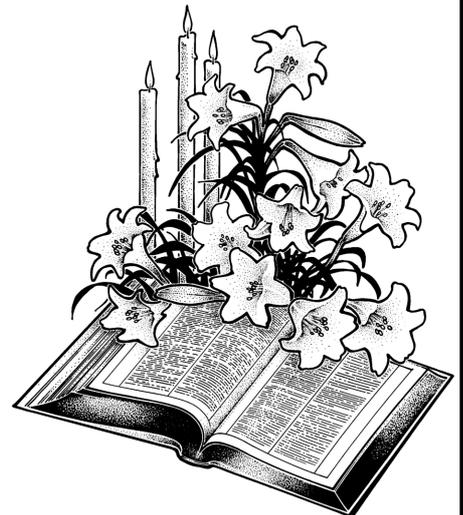
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Bishop of Sandhurst 2001-2010

**Founder of the Catholic School of Evangelisation
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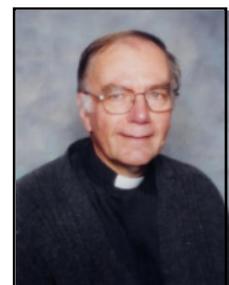
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