



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

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

May 2012 Newsletter

FORMATION OF EVANGELISERS

When the School of Evangelisation was founded by the late Bishop Joe Grech in 1993 the word evangelisation wasn't even heard of in most parishes. Now evangelisation is at the forefront of Church thinking. This year there will be a meeting of Bishops in Rome on the topic and our own Australian bishops are organising a national Conference on the New Evangelisation: Proclaim 2012 in August (see letter from Bishop Peter Ingham page 7).

In direct contrast to the thinking of Australian culture which reduces religion to a private matter and tries to force religious opinion from the public arena our bishops are calling on us in the words of Jesus, *"What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops."* (Mt 10:27)

The bishops are calling on our ordinary Catholic people to take up the challenge of the New Evangelisation. However if people are going to be able to respond to this call they need to be equipped and formed as evangelisers. This is something that the School has been doing for the last nineteen years. Over 8000 people have attended nearly 350 courses in that time in every state and territory in Australia as well as several overseas countries.

I believe we have something to offer the Church in the formation of a new generation of evangelisers, a Trinitarian formation centred on an experience of the healing love of the Father, a saving encounter with the Risen

Lord Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

It is impossible to break down this encounter with the Living God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit into a step by step process, especially as each person encounters God in their own unique way. However for the sake of our own understanding we can say there are three essential experiences needed for the formation of an evangeliser.

The evangeliser has to have had a personal encounter with the Risen Jesus as the one who has taken away their sin and given them the gift of new life. If we have come to Jesus as sinners and experienced his free, undeserved gift of mercy and forgiveness then we can go out to others in humility, as fellow sinners offering hope for a new beginning.

The evangeliser has to be part of the Christian community, not just in the sense of the Universal Church, or even the local parish, but in the sense of a small group of real people, a motley crew of brothers and sisters with whom they share their life and where they experience the love of God their Father.

Evangelisation is this community of love reaching out to those who don't know God and inviting them into an

environment where they can experience the love of God through the love of the brothers and sisters. This community is like the "good soil" where everyone's faith grows.

This encounter with Jesus, this experience of being the family of God is the work of the Holy Spirit. The evangeliser needs to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit and the conviction that it is the Holy Spirit who is pushing them forward in this work of evangelisation. The love of the Holy Spirit is what enables the evangeliser to go beyond their own human limitations and to operate in the supernatural realm of the Spirit.

This is the vision of the Catholic School of Evangelisation to help others to meet Jesus, to become part of the community of faith and then to reach out themselves in the power of the Holy Spirit to continue the cycle of evangelisation.

Pat Kelly



"Getting Bibles into hands and hearts - Philippines" See page 8.

The Witness

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*Check out information about the
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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.

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.

Cling To The WORD of GOD

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful, because I come to you for safety. In the shadow of your wings I find protection until the raging storms are over. I call to God, the Most High, to God, who supplies my every need. He will answer from heaven and save me: He will defeat my oppressors. God will show me his constant love and faithfulness.” Ps 57:1-3

Recently I had a heart attack and I was rushed off to hospital in Melbourne. It was a pretty full on experience and I felt very vulnerable and uncertain, not knowing what the next hour, let alone the day would bring.

Over the years I have found that in times of stress, when faced with difficult problems, be they relationships, finances, work or in this case health, God will give me a special word of scripture to help me though. The verses at the start of this article were the words God gave me for this particular time of crisis.

Every day while I was in hospital I read these words over and over again. I was not going to be swept along by the circumstances I found myself in or the natural emotions that welled up from within, I made a decision to rely on the promises of God’s word. God had promised to shelter me in the shadow of his wings, God had promised to supply my every need, God had promised to defeat my oppressor (my illness) and God had promised to show me his constant love. I chose to believe the truth of God’s promises, it was an act of faith, an act of will.

I was acting on sound advice that I had received over the years and I know it is true, it works....the advice is ... **CLING TO GOD’S WORD.** There is power in God’s word that gives us victory over every situation. Whatever difficulties you are facing in your life right now, however insurmountable they may seem, I challenge you to ask Jesus to give you a word of scripture to carry you through. Choose to believe God’s word and keep praying that passage of scripture over and over again until it becomes firmly established in your mind and heart. By praying this word of scripture you are giving Jesus permission to come into your life, you are making a decision to rely on him and I promise you, he will shelter you from the raging storm.

Pat Kelly



The Kerygma in the Sacrament of Marriage

By Adrian Commadeur

Frank Sinatra made famous: 'love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage' in a 1955 TV production. Love and marriage still go together, but the times have changed. It seems that marriage as a sacrament requires a new evangelisation, a fresh proclamation of the Kerygma, the basic points of the gospel.

In recent times I have attended the wedding of our daughter, Rebecca to Joshua, in a unique and creative ceremony, and also a Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mary and Mac. Both events were moments of evangelisation, moments in which the message of the gospel, the love of God, were proclaimed. At the same time the state of marriage is a reflection of the Kerygma for today, as its six points: Love of God, sin, salvation, faith and conversion, the Holy Spirit and the Community of the Church are part and parcel of the journey of married love.

On both marriage events St Paul's hymn of love in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, was read: *Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous, love is never boastful or conceited; it does not take offence and is not resentful... Love does not come to an end.*

This love is a reflection of the **love of God** for us, and is the measure of love in the married couple. I noticed that Rebecca paid great attention to these words as I solemnly read them, indication that these qualities of love will endure, as they have already, since their marriage has been '10 years in the making!' I would say that Mary and Mac have fulfilled these qualities of love for one another all those 50 years, knowing and having experienced the love of God through mutual love, self giving and sacrifice.

In all relationships, including marriage, there will be times in which the spouses offend one another. **Sin** enters the relationship

through impatience, infidelity, selfishness, tiredness, misunderstandings, and moments of weakness. It is important to acknowledge sin in marriage and seek reconciliation with God, and one another, as soon as possible. Mary and Mac in the Renewal of their Marriage Vows said: *Sometimes I have disappointed you. For this I am sorry. Yet my love for you is true and I renew my promise to love you and honour you all the days of my life.* They acknowledged their failures and their intent to do better in their love.

The **Salvation** Jesus has won for all on the Cross is available for the Young Marrieds and for the Golden Oldies. The fidelity both couples promised each other makes a connection to the Cross of Jesus, from which the grace of perseverance flows *in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse.*

Fidelity requires **faith and constant conversion**, steps in the Kerygma for every day. With faith in God, times of prayer and intimacy with Jesus, there will be strength for whatever married life brings. This fidelity was tested in the case of Rebecca and Josh when their second girl was born with holes in the heart and needed daily attention, until open heart surgery resolved the problem at age one. Fidelity is a gift from God for those who ask for it, as Anne and I do, now that Anne suffers from a form of dementia, which gradually brings more confusion as well as physical pain, and greater dependence.

There is a strange joy in being able to kneel down at Anne's feet, to assist her with dressing and putting on her shoes. It is like washing the feet of Jesus in Anne. This strange joy, is a fruit of **the Holy Spirit**, whom we need in daily life and freely receive as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We also sense a certain divine guidance

as to what we should do as the next step for Anne as patient, and me as carer. The Holy Spirit is truly our Advocate and Guide.

Rebecca and Josh were surrounded by 125 relatives and friends, Mary and Mac celebrated with about 70 family member and friends. As the presiding priest and pastor, represented the official **Church Community**, all those present formed a community of love, friendship, support and encouragement. Young people like Rebecca and Josh seem to be able to make long lasting friendships, which is their supporting community. My hope is that such beautiful friends, who show such kindness and goodness, may soon also place their faith in Jesus and the Church He has founded. The older generation, like Mary and Mac, find their main support in the community of the Church. On their Renewal of Marriage Vows, all these friends prayed with love and sincerity, stretching their right hands over them:

Lord, look with love on Mac and Mary who have renewed their promises. May they always trust each other and recognize that they are equal partners in reflecting God's love to us. Keep them always faithful and let them be living examples of Christian life. May they always be honoured by their children and esteemed by their grandchildren. After a happy old age grant them the fullness of life with the saints in the heavenly Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We ask these graces for all married couples, both young and old.

The solemn promises between the two spouses, are a reflection of the Covenant God has made with his people, and Jesus with the Church. May all marriages find the grace of happiness, health and fullness of joy, now and forever as spouses become living expressions of the Kerygma.



DARWIN MISSION by Lucy Grasso

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The Catholic School of Evangelisation – Sydney conducted three formation courses in Darwin for the Missionaries of Charity, Sisters of Mother Teresa, in January 2012. The Sisters came from the Missions of East Timore, Malaysia, Perth, Orange, Sydney and Darwin. After four hours flight from Sydney, Eddie and I were very warmly welcomed by the Sisters on arrival at Darwin airport and taken to their place at Fannie Bay. We had a week to conduct three courses namely: New Life, Emmaus and Jesus in the 4 Gospels, to eleven Junior professed and five finally professed Sisters as part of their formation courses.

The Sisters participated fully in all the activities with enthusiasm and giving heartfelt contributions to enhance each presentation amidst the sound of torrential rain and thunderstorms. In Darwin this is the time of the year when the heavens open to water the earth. It was an experience for us that will remain with us for good. During our stay one of Eddie’s expressions was he felt ‘blessed among women.’

God moves in mysterious ways and has no boundaries to where he can lead us. It was sad to say our good-byes after such hospitality, fellowship and newly found friendships. We left Darwin with an escort of Sisters who drove us back to the airport for our flight home assuring one another that we would keep each other in prayers and continue our mission to spread the Good News with zeal and fervour.

We wish to thank Sr Lucy who invited us to bring the School to Darwin and look forward to being of service again in the future. Below are some comments from the Sisters of how they benefited from the Catholic School of Evangelisation Courses presented to them:

We very much enjoyed our first

experience with the Catholic School of Evangelisation. We were very touched by Lucy & Eddie’s zeal and joy for the Lord, as well as their thorough and thoughtful preparation for each presentation. During the courses, we had the opportunity to reflect upon and deepen our knowledge of the faith we regularly study and love so well, using some new interactive methods which can enrich our own daily apostolate of evangelisation. We can see clearly the School’s potential for bringing souls to Christ and we pray for its continued growth and success. Thank you very much. God bless you.

*Sr Maria Lucy MC -
Sr Florian Martin MC*

Other comments.....

- * The course has helped me a lot because through what I learned I am able to teach others also and apply it to my own life. Now my spouse Jesus is in control not me.*
- * I have learnt other methods of presenting the Good News.*
- * Helped me to reflect on that need for constant conversion, as well as my journey thus far with Jesus. Believing more in the Holy Spirit’s influence in my life every day.*
- * We had done all these things in our formation and yet I was so happy about it that it renewed again my knowledge specially the Word of God which we are meditating every day.*
- * Re-affirmed the idea of being creative in presenting the gospel at the same time prayerfully to have a deeper impact on others.*
- * Presented in a simple way that I could understand. It helped me to be confident and creative.*



One of our highlights was that we were invited to join in early morning, mid-day and evening prayers with the Sisters in the chapel during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of daily Mass. Besides being a delight to present the Courses to these spouses of Jesus, it was a spiritual retreat for us, the presenters, to enter into the prayerfulness of the Sisters of Mother Teresa. We were very much reminded and lived the spirituality of Mother Teresa in simplicity, humility and joy of the Spirit.



OBEDIENCE – THAT DIVISIVE NOTION

By Len Forester

Obedience is mostly considered with distaste. Particularly western societies perceive themselves as developed to the stage where both as individuals and as communities they now 'know it all' and are equipped to make their decisions and take their actions without recourse to anybody else. We have indeed learnt much about our bodies and the world around us. Science and technology have opened enormous development in the knowledge and control of our lives and our environment. Let us remember however, that we are in fact only discovering what our creator designed and made in the beginning.

Freedom is cited as a key plank necessary for a successful life; and it is. People however, often misunderstand the true nature of freedom. They see it as being unrestricted in the choice of whatever we want to do at the time when we want to do it and regardless of whether society perceives the activity as moral or proper or not. In practice to be able to act totally freely would obviously cause difficulty as most human actions have an effect, or impact in some way on others. What we regard as exercising our freedom would often therefore, be restricting the freedom of others. Some would be more free than others and this of course could never be universal freedom.

Most of our life is enclosed within us, governed not so much by our material surroundings and the physical events that occur, than by our attitude to them. We do truly live the greater part of that existence, which generates the genuine depth in value of life, meaning and satisfaction, within ourselves. It is therefore the integrity of our behaviour which brings true peace and happiness. **Truth, sincerity and care for others is the basis of true freedom** as we read in the gospel of St. John: *Jn. 8: 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

There can only be one truth. Multiple hypotheses conflict and in reason therefore either none or only one could be true. There can be no contradictory truths. Let us then look for that truth that will 'set us free'. Although inconvenient to the world in which we live, which prefers to forget the creator who designed and made us, we know there is a God. We know that He loves us and sent His Son Jesus to redeem us and asks as a response that we repent the transgressions that we have all committed. In following Jesus we have the most beautiful, happy and contented life possible. Let us therefore not forget this paramount truth which does not change, but will surely set as free.

We learn from the first book of our Bible, that **God created us in His own image, but on a very much**

lower plane. By his nature God is supreme to an infinite degree. **This gift bestows upon the whole of mankind, a unique purpose, demanding a respect and dignity above all the rest of creation.** In the light of this it becomes important to remember that God is God and we must always acknowledge that in our thoughts and actions. **From this follows the call to obedience.**

In overview, we may ponder these words from the Old Testament, still relevant for us today: *"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse ... the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known."* Dt. 11:26-28. And then from the example of Jesus: *"Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."* Heb. 5: 8-9.

The importance of this obedience may be gleaned from critical examples. It was the disobedience occasioned by self-importance and arrogance that was the sin of Lucifer and in the same way for the same reason the sin of Adam and Eve. Then down through the history of mankind, of the fall of empires and great civilisations, disregard of previously accepted standards of behaviour has always manifested itself as a major factor of the demise. We may all recall instances in our own lives when disregard of legitimate authority has resulted in calamitous or tragic result.

There is a very apparent (culture of rebellion) in western societies today, which is affecting peaceful relationships between people. It is quite obvious that in both private and public life most people plan and live their lives and most leaders enact laws without any reference to the word of God. Their attempts are futile because nothing which is outside God can ever succeed. When those openly professing a lifestyle known to be sinful are in public office we can be sure doubt exists as to their effectiveness because when they don't follow the wisdom of God's word in their private lives they are unlikely to recognise it in the decision making that effects society.

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***"Grace is like the air we breath.
You can't see it or feel it,
but we need it for life.***

Bishop Christopher Prowse

OBEDIENCE – THAT DIVISIVE NOTION

.... Continued from p.5

The disorder has even pervaded the ranks of practicing Catholics. Overt criticism of the Church and its precepts can frequently be heard. Certainly those active in Church affairs have made some incorrect and misguided judgements in temporal matters down through the ages, as any organisation involving human beings always will. But as the body of Christ on earth it has not only preserved but brought enlightenment and understanding of the eternal truths given to us by Jesus and also of those given to us by prophesy and by revelation of the Holy Spirit guiding us as promised.

We must remember the promise of Our Lord Jesus while here on Earth as recorded here from the gospel of St. Matthew: *Mt.16:18-19 "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

And again when Jesus was commissioning His Disciples for the mission of the Church: *Mt.28:18 –20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

This age where we expect free and fair temporal government has somewhat blinded us to the true nature of our vocation to be children of God. By our very nature we are subject to God, not to tyranny, but to His love and goodness in all circumstances. The Church is not a democracy, it is much fairer. Sure, we do not make the rules, but we can trust God to be more just than any human judge.

To come to know our Church is easier now than for the people of any previous generation. There is the very comprehensive 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' widely available to us. For deeper understanding we can read the official documents of the second Vatican Council and the enormous wisdom of the Encyclical Letters of the recent Popes. A further depth of the human understanding displayed by our last two Popes can be found in the book, 'Witness to Hope' the unofficial biography of Pope John Paul II or 'Light of the World' a recent book length interview with Pope Benedict XVI. Certainly it takes time to read important materials and it interferes with our busy lives of pleasure seeking and making money, but is it not worth it to have serious direction to guide our lives in the critical planning for both true satisfaction in this life and preparation for an eternal life of bliss?

It is well known among religious orders that make the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience that the hardest to live by is the vow of Obedience. However it is also probable that when Obedience is exercised in submission to rightful authority:

e.g. a religious to his /her superior, worker to the boss, child to parent, Catholics to Papal authority etc. that the life of Grace abounds.

JESUS IS WITH ME

As I look back there have been many times when I have experienced Jesus in my life. One of the most profound times commenced in January 2002.

I had been in considerable pain after undergoing surgery as a result of which a major nerve was trapped. Due to incorrect diagnosis the surgery was not the answer for the symptoms it was meant to alleviate. The surgery just compounded my discomfort. I had reached a point where for about twelve months I rarely left home. Travelling in the car was intolerable. Even so, I still remained confident that one day I would find a solution, but I had reached a point where I could no longer pray.

One Sunday morning, when I actually managed to make it to Mass, a friend enquired how I was. On hearing my story she suggested I come to the Charismatic Prayer Group meeting the following Tuesday evening, which I did. I would like to say that I was healed instantly - but that was not the case. However something in my life changed. The following day I was referred to a Doctor who was not taking any new patients..... he agreed to see me, and has played a very important role in helping me deal with my issues. From that night I found myself being led to people who could offer some help. As I was in need of a new approach someone else would present themselves. This pattern is still continuing.

I believe that being amongst others who could pray on my behalf, when I wasn't able, assisted me in once again being able to speak with Jesus myself. I became thirsty for knowledge of Jesus' role in healing and every week would leave the prayer meeting with a number of books from the group's library. Being incapacitated has helped me accept that whenever I have trouble coping with anything in my life I need to place my trust in the fact that Jesus is with me and will help me through.

Margaret.

"Grace is a real gift or favour from God that is a blessing, freely given as a benefit and received as a joy, prompting gratitude and thanksgiving."

Bishop Peter Comensoli

PROCLAIM 2012 By Bishop Peter Ingham

Bishops Commission for Mission & Faith Formation

I am delighted to be able to invite graduates of the School of Evangelisation to attend the **Proclaim 2012 Conference** on the New Evangelisation from **Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th August 2012 at The Concourse Chatswood** (Nth Sydney).

Organised for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, this national event will focus on the new evangelisation for dioceses and parishes. The theme is based on Jesus' words: "*What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops*" (Mt 10:27). It will be the first national event in the Year of Grace.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council Promoting the New Evangelisation,

has accepted our invitation to come to Australia for PROCLAIM 2012. This is very significant and an indication of the international importance of this conference. A number of other excellent international and Australian speakers will share their expertise and encourage each of us in our personal and corporate living and sharing of the faith.

The aim of PROCLAIM 2012 is to give lay people as well as bishops, priests, deacons and religious the chance to discuss and reflect on the new evangelisation and to develop their confidence and competencies in building parishes that can evangelise effectively today.

The focus is on parish evangelisation as the parishes are

the communities given to us by the Church within which to live out our Catholic faith. While there are vital parishes, there are others also who are struggling. All parishes, and those who work with and support parishes, will receive support and encouragement at PROCLAIM 2012.

It would be wonderful if graduates of the School of Evangelisation were able to participate to ensure that PROCLAIM 2012 is a truly national celebration of the new evangelisation. Please visit the website:

www.proclaimconference.com.au for more information regarding the program and for registrations. I would also be most grateful if PROCLAIM 2012 were included in your prayers.

BISHOP JOE ON YouTube

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Melbourne has produced a series of short 3-6 minute video clips featuring the late Bishop Joe Grech. These video clips, taken from past conference appearances, are posted on the CCR YouTube Channel *CCRinMelbourne* so that you can -

- * Chuckle at his sense of humour in the video clip, *In Joyful Hope for God*.
- * Laugh with him as he advises us to pay more attention to Jesus in *Just a little detail*.
- * Agree with him when he insists in *Stewards of God's creation* that social justice and ecology without God is nothing.
- * Grasp the consequences of sin in *David: from one little look to murder*.
- * Copy this servant of God who wanted his *Epitaph* to state that:
"This priest was with Jesus."



- * Answer *Yes* to his question in *Epitaph* "Didn't he make our hearts burn with Jesus?"
- * Concur with his statement that "God is very smart. He gives all his gifts to all his peoples." in *Be An Evangeliser*.

Listen to the late beloved bishop as he preaches about Evangelisation, a topic so close to his heart. In Bishop's Joe own words "Evangelisation, which is part and parcel of our Catholic Faith, is talking to people about Jesus." Are you ready to accept Bishop Joe's call?

With the launch of this new series of YouTube videos, you can sit in Bishop Joe's presence and listen to his words.

For more information, contact the CCR Centre on 03) 9486 6544 or email centre@ccr.org.au.

‘A NEW HORIZON FOR EVANGELISATION’

By Charlie Gatt

The powerful work of the Holy Spirit never ceases to amaze and inspire those who are open and willingly serve in His name. Following the Second Vatican Council many dynamic and inspirational changes have been witnessed and experienced within the Catholic Church.

In recent years, we have seen a determined focus in promoting the so called New Evangelisation; an effort aimed at directing our attention towards our obligation to *“Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind” (Mark 16:15).*

To re-awaken this message of Jesus, a Holy Spirit inspired initiative lead the Filipino Bishops and the Bible Societies to form an ecumenical partnership and initiate an idea to re-ignite a hunger for the written Word among Catholics.

The **‘May They Be One’** Project was enthusiastically developed and presented to the 12th Ordinary Synod of Bishops, held in Rome 2008 – the theme of which was *“The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”*.

The Project, aimed at actively putting Holy Bibles into the hands and hearts of Catholic communities, received significant support and endorsement by Synod Members.

Pope Benedict XVI gave his official approval and urged the Catholic Church to re-focus its work on spreading the written Word of God world-wide.

The Project name, **‘May They Be One’** Bible Campaign, was based on the prayer of Jesus, *“I pray that they all be one, Father!” (John 17:21);* and its basis emanates from the Holy Father’s Exhortation in the Synod Document.

A mandate was given by the Holy Father to the Filipino Bishops to collaborate with Bible Societies, and provide five million Bibles to five million poor Catholic families in the Philippines over five years, commencing from mid 2009.

The Philippine Bible Society offered its resources to translate print and deliver the Bibles at a subsidised cost. Some Bibles were to be given free to the poorest of families.

Through this unique and historic partnership, the Catholic Church has broken new ground in working together with Bible Societies (NB: non-catholic organisations) to jointly and openly promote the Bible, and encourage Catholics to actively engage with the Written Word.

The Philippines has around 80 million Catholics, and yet 55 million have no access to the Scriptures through a Bible. So, access to Bibles through this

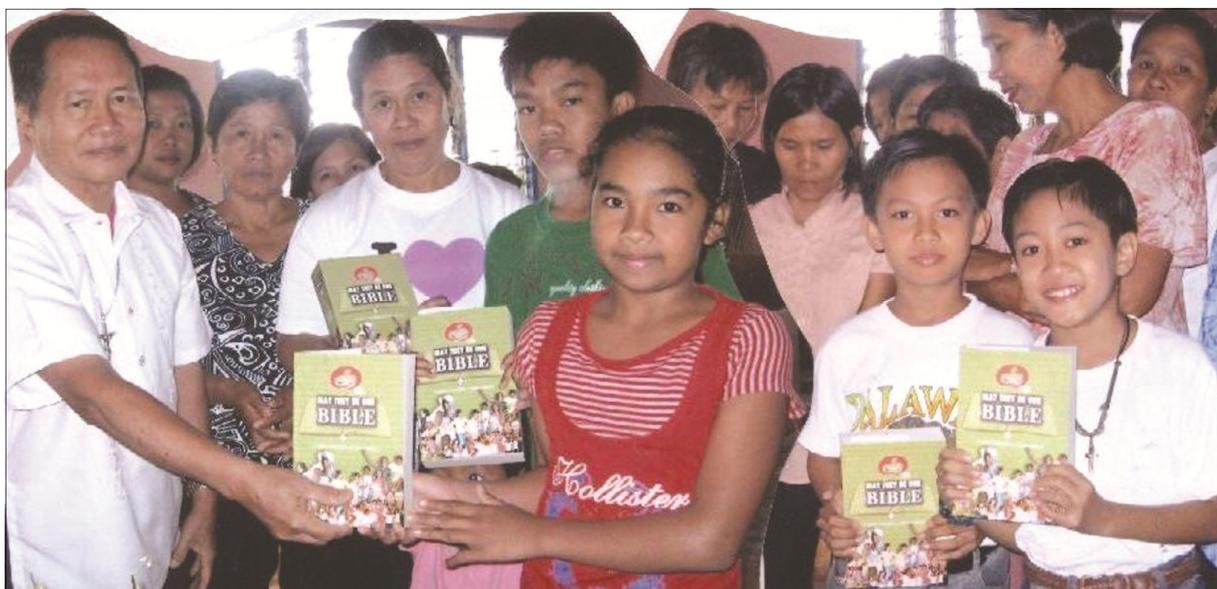
Project has been most welcomed, especially among the poor Filipino communities.

To date over 1.5 million Bibles in eight languages have been distributed in nearly 800 parishes/communities nationwide. This “tsunami” of Bibles in 76 out of 86 Arch/dioceses has been overwhelmingly received. The impact and change is clearly evident in the lives of those people who have been formed in the Word of God, and who now understand and openly live it.

Although not widely known outside the Philippines, the Project has truly gathered momentum and is quickly and quietly taking hold as a powerful evangelisation tool for “interiorising” the Gospel Message on a large scale. Effectively, the concept is breaking new ground in a practical way and providing the basis for teaching the deeper intimate meaning of God’s Word to many people who would otherwise be missing out.

Having been presented to the meeting of Bishops’ Conferences of Oceania in May 2010, the **‘May They Be One’** Bible Project has gained the wide endorsement and significant approval of the Catholic Church.

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God is Good . . . All the Time! Cranbourne New Life

In March the Parish Formation and Evangelisation Programme kicked off at St Agatha's in Cranbourne (Vic) with the New Life course. This very simple and basic course is the foundation of the whole programme as it calls each participant to surrender their life to the Risen Lord, choosing to live under the guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Without this encounter their can be no evangelisation.

As is always the case in doing the Lord's work there were problems. (The late Bishop Joe used to worry if there were no difficulties as that meant there was something wrong.) In this case we were stranded when our Team leader and main teacher, Pat Kelly, suddenly suffered heart problems and was taken to hospital where he remained out of action for the next few weeks. But God never leaves us in our time of need and true to His Word the Lord raised up a support team so the course could go ahead.

Thank you Maria and John Luff, Tony Grieves and John Duiker who answered God's call at the last minute

and presented excellent talks and generally supported the local Team. Thanks also to Jason Hummel who filled in to provide the music.

At the instigation of Regina Abraham, the Parish Council and Fr Denis O'Bryan have supported the Parish Formation and Evangelisation Programme as a way of equipping parishioners for evangelisation. This New Life course is the first step to be followed by the Formation of Disciples and Formation of Evangelisers courses later in the year. The objective is to form participants in evangelisation as a way of life.

Julianne Hoffard

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Have a look at our new, completely revamped website at:

www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

'A NEW HORIZON FOR EVANGELISATION'

Continued from p.8 . . .

In October 2010, the Campaign was officially launched in the Melbourne Archdiocese by Bishop Arturo Bastes SVD, DD, from the Philippines, with encouraging support from Archbishop Denis Hart.

Since then, through the cooperation of Parish Priests and generosity of parishioners, donations received have enabled an additional 14,500 Bibles to be issued to families, resulting in around 72,000 individuals that now are able to engage with the written Word.

As the Project Coordinator of the Campaign in Australia, I am humbled and inspired by the positive response of Catholics who have so generously supported the cause.

Continued strong endorsement and support from other Australian Bishops has enabled the Campaign to be extended into other Dioceses both Victoria, New South Wales, and shortly into Queensland. Also, the Campaign was recently

extended into a number of countries within the Asia-Pacific Region.

Currently, the nature of the Project in Australia is aimed at creating awareness of the Church's new focus on encouraging Catholics to personally engage with the Holy Bible; and also to share with the Bible Society in the cost of achieving the Holy Father's mandate in the Philippines.

The partnership between the Catholic Church and the Bible Society is kindling immediate interest among Catholics to obtain their own personal Bible and support the Campaign.

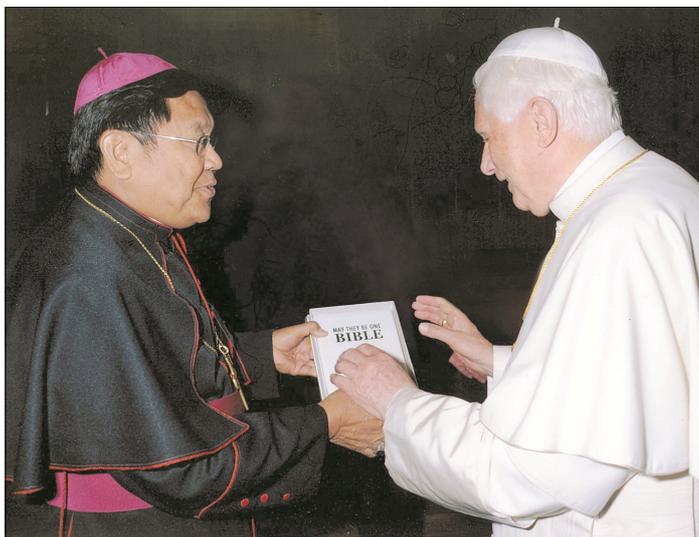
Holy Scripture tells us that Jesus commissioned the Apostles to "*Go throughout the whole world and preach the Good News to all Mankind*" (Mark

16:15). By participating in this Bible Campaign, we too can become missionaries and share in the obligation and blessings of this great Commission.

If you are willing to help in this God-given opportunity, please send your gift to:

The Bible Society, GPO Box 9874 in your capital city, or donate on-line at www.maytheybel.com.

For further information please contact: Charlie Gatt, Project Coordinator, Mob: 0409 421263 or charlie.gatt@biblesociety.org.au



New Life Course - Dapto

The New Life Course started in Dapto two weeks after Easter. We were given the O.K. by the parish priest, Fr. Francis, at short notice so we sprang into action at the rate of knots. This was a wonderful surprise as we have been waiting for a couple of years for the 'doors to open' in the parishes in the Illawarra Area.

Gabriella a parishioner had been praying for some time for something like a 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' or a 'New Life Course' for her Parish. She initiated the invitation to Fr. Francis and worked hard to contact the parishioners by inviting them after the Sunday Masses.

The New Life was run with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Illawarra) led by Vince Fitzwilliam and the School Of Evangelisation led by Paul Farrugia, as a joint team working in harmony together.

We had approximately twenty-five participants and we ran the Course over six weeks on a Thursday night, condensing the talks when necessary and on some nights having two talks in succession.

We followed each night with supper and there was a great feeling of fellowship amongst the parishioners. They were very grateful especially for the liveliness of the hands-on activities and the warmth and friendliness of the team. There were many encouraging comments such as, "You will keep doing this won't you".

The night before the Blessed Sacrament was a special night and everyone seem to come alive with an extra 'Joy' - Praise the Lord!

We finished our last night with The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and concluded with the talk on Community.

We were very grateful for Lucy and Eddy Grasso driving down from Sydney to be with us to present 'The Baptism in the Holy Spirit'. Thank you Eddy and Lucy for your continual guidance.

There is some talk of some follow up in Dapto and that will be discussed and discerned when the team gathers next.

Thank you all for the continuous prayers we share together and may God always be praised and glorified.

The Wollongong School of Evangelisation Team.



"Grace is the mystery of God amongst us. We can't buy it. Grace is like having a cateract removed. We see life clearly."

Bishop Christopher Prowse.

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2012

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
9 th —11 th June	Form of Disciples	Cranbourne, Vic	Pat, 03 5672 2772
16 th —17 th June	New Life	Wonthaggi, Vic	Pat, 03 5672 2772
25 th —26 th August	New Life	Dulwich, S.A.	Carmen, 08 8339 2573
29 th —30 th September	Emmaus	St. Mary's, NSW	United in Love Prayer Community Lucy, 02 9670 4440
13 th —14 th October	Joshua	Adelaide, S.A.	Carmen, 08 8339 2573
27 th —28 th Oct. 3 rd —6 th & 24 th —25 th Nov.	Formation of Evangelisers	Cranbourne, Vic	Pat, 03 5672 2772

Courses subject to confirmation and may change. Please contact local co-ordinator for further information.

OUR LOVING FATHER PROVIDES By Libby

As a single parent, raising two boys on a teacher's salary, money was always 'tight', luxuries were few and holidays away were generally rare and always local. Often it appeared that we lived from pay to pay, with little or no capital and anxieties were frequently high when it came to finding extra money for necessities beyond the regular weekly budget.

However, there were three quite dramatic occasions when I felt that God intervened and assisted in extremely practical ways to assist our little family.

The first occasion was when I acquired a permanent teaching position within one week of my estranged husband dying. I had previously only been able to gain casual work during the twelve months of our separation and permanent employment was indeed a blessing.

The second occasion came about when I received a letter to say that I had an unclaimed bank account in my name, from many years before the boys were born,

with enough money in it to pay the quarterly water / electricity / telephone / rates bills.

The third occasion was when I was unable to pay a credit card bill amounting to about \$3,400.00. In a panic, I telephoned my accountant to see what I could do and she discovered that her predecessor had failed to claim for me as a single parent on my tax for the last three years....and the money outstanding to me amounted to a little over the \$3,400.00 I owed on my credit card bill.

Now, one could easily dismiss these three events as merely coincidences but I truly believe that they were evidence of God taking a hand in a very practical way because of His love and concern for the three of us.

His love and concern was even more apparent when you consider that, at the time, I was also estranged from His Catholic church, and did not experience a return to the faith till a few years later.

Yes, God is indeed a loving and caring Father, even when we are far from Him. As we read in the story of the prodigal son, He keeps watch from His heavenly home, ever faithful, ever loving and ever ready to run towards us when we turn, for whatever reason, to return to our Father's house.

.....
This beautiful story testifies to the wonderful provision of God. We can trust God to provide for our needs. As Paul says, "*God is perfectly able to enrich you with every grace, so that you always have enough for every conceivable need, and your resources overflow in all kinds of good work.*" 2Cor 9:8

It is important for us to remember this in the present climate of financial fear. Regardless of the economic situation we find ourselves in we can always afford to be generous towards the Lord's work because we put our trust in Him. In this attitude of trust I ask you to remember Gideon's Army and the work of the School and continue with your generous support.

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

Would you consider becoming a new member of the Gideon's Army appeal?

\$100 annual subscription. New soldiers urgently needed!



<p 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"/> RENEWAL</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 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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Credit Card Payment: Credit Card Payments: We are sorry that credit card facilities are no longer available. Because of the high fees we decided not to renew this arrangement with the Bank.

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

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*I see Grace as the environment in which we live our lives.
In each moment there is a divine presence
and our task is to be open to that divine presence.*

Bishop David Walker

Proclaim 2012 Conference
on the New Evangelisation.

9th — 11th August Sydney NSW

www.proclaimconference.com.au

*“What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, what you hear
in whispers, proclaim from the housetops” Mt 10:27.*