



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

November 2013 Newsletter



A NEW BEGINNING



The Annual General Meeting of the School held in October this year, at the CCR Centre in North Fitzroy, signalled a new beginning for the School. After 12 years leading the School, first as National Executive Officer in 2001 and then as Director from 2006, I have decided to step down. I have made this decision because you only have so many years to give to a job before it is time to move on. Also I have been a member of the Koinonia John the Baptist community for two years and the growth of that community is now demanding more of my time.

I am delighted that Sandra Bishop has agreed to take over the role of Director. I will still be active in the School as National Secretary and Co-Ordinator of Sale Diocese but Sandra will now be in charge.

Sandra was involved in the School right from the earliest days with Bishop Joe and Adrian Commadeur. She has tremendous experience teaching and organising School courses throughout Australia and has even made several trips to The Philippines. She has a special gift for teaching and I know she is very keen to increase the number and kind of courses presented. Sandra has also developed courses of her own, some of you may be familiar with the Barnabas course which she developed some years ago as well as a course on the Eucharist

in more recent times.

Sandra is not letting the grass grow under her feet, she has already been busy teaching at a Moses course in Traralgon in October and has planned a get together of Melbourne graduates on St Andrew's Day at Fr. Wahid's parish at St Clement of Rome in Bullen (details page 12). It would be wonderful to see as many graduates as possible on that day. Please spread the word to all of our graduates especially as we have lost contact with a number of them over the years.

Fr. Brendan Lane has always said that as far as evangelisation goes the School is ahead of its time. Well maybe now is the time that the Church is catching up. Archbishop Julian Porteous (Hobart), Archbishop Mark

Coleridge (Brisbane) and Archbishop Chris Prowse (Canberra & Goulburn) are all young archbishops who have made it very clear that evangelisation is at the top of their priorities. We can only hope that this thinking is spreading throughout the Church and that it will create opportunities for the School to train evangelisers.

Thank you to all those I worked with over the years as Director. I always received tremendous encouragement and support from everyone, especially the diocesan co-ordinators. I know everyone will give Sandra that same support. God bless.

Pat Kelly



A changing of the Guard. Incoming and outgoing members of the CSOE Committee of Management, with other members at the School's AGM on October 5th.

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*Check out information about the
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www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

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

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

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.

FISHERS FISH

Where I live in South Gippsland is right on the sea. Often I drive from my home in Wonthaggi to Phillip Island, the home of the world famous penguin parade. As you go over the bridge onto Phillip Island you can look down to the left and see the jetties that are the home of the San Remo fishing fleet. More often than not the jetties are empty. Why? Because the boats are out at sea, off the coast of Tasmania fishing. It's a fishing fleet, it exists to fish and that's just what the men and women who man the boats do....they fish!

As you continue across the bridge you can look down at the Newhaven jetty full of anglers...fishing. If you look right across Westernport you can see the small boats in the bay full of people...fishing. Under the bridge the medium sized boats are heading out of the channel into Bass Strait... to fish. As they head out of the Bay to the ocean the rocks are dotted with fishers and where the surf crashes in on the sandy shore, surf fishers with their long rods...fish.

What makes a fisherman or fisherwoman a fisher is that they fish. As we have seen they fish in all sorts of different ways, they target different types of fish, some fish more often than others, some are more successful than others but whether they catch fish or not, what makes them fishers is that they fish. If their boat stays tied up to the pier, or if it remains on the trailer in the backyard or if their rods, or nets or craypots lay gathering dust and rotting in the garage you would think that they can no longer honestly call themselves fishers.

It's no accident that the first four disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John, were all fishermen. Jesus obviously saw the connection between fishing and evangelisation when he said, "Come follow me and I will teach you to catch people." (Mt 4:19) All that I have said about fishing holds true for evangelisation. What makes an evangeliser an evangeliser is that we evangelise. We might evangelise in all sorts of different ways, according to our personality and situation, we might target different sorts of people, some might get more opportunities than others and some might be more successful than others. None of this matters, what matters is that we are active as evangelisers. We are actively looking for opportunities to share the Good News so that everyone might come to find salvation in Jesus.

Make a decision now to fish! Renew your decision



to follow Jesus and claim the promise of Jesus, that he will teach us how to fish.

Pat Kelly

What were you doing 20 years ago?

What were you doing 20 years ago? I was studying at Bible College when I received an invitation to attend a meeting on 9th December 1993 at the Italian Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre. The meeting had been called by Fr Joe Grech. He explained a little about the School of Evangelisation founded by Pepe Prado, a Mexican. An Italian group had already attended a school in Melbourne in 1993 and the 1994 course would be the first English one worldwide. Participants would come from all over Australia. Fr Joe gave us time sitting before Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to discern if we would apply to attend a three week course early 1994.

On Monday 28th February 1994, fifty-four people from at least nine dioceses around Australia squeezed into a room at St Benedict's Burwood for three life-changing weeks. "John" & "Paul" were presented by Javier Silva, a representative from the St Andrew's School of Evangelisation in Mexico and he was assisted by Fr Joe and Fr Victor Farrugia. At the end of the course we were presented with a St Andrew's cross lapel pin.

What a lot has happened since then. Thousands of people across Australia have participated in subsequent courses and have been equipped to share their faith with others. And not just Australia, teams have gone to the Philippines, New Guinea and New Zealand to present courses. Quite a few of the original fifty-four participants have gone to their eternal reward, as also has Bishop Joe. What of those remaining graduates of the Catholic School of

Evangelisation? The School is currently active in several dioceses across Australia.

Back in the day, I would receive a phone call from Maltese Bishop Joe and if he commenced with "Hello San", I knew he needed me to do something for him and it wouldn't be something little! The last couple of years I have been hearing interiorly, "Do something San" and there, on a shelf opposite my computer is a picture of Bishop Joe smiling down at me. What wasn't clear was the "something" he was calling me to do.

A couple of months back, Carmen Sylvester (Adelaide School) phoned me to tell me that Pat Kelly would be resigning as Director, she added that she and Lucy Grasso (Sydney School), both Maltese, I might add, wanted to propose that I nominate for the role. I call that a triple Maltese conspiracy. After considerable discernment and with a high level of trepidation I have agreed and there you have it, another Bishop as the Director of the Catholic School of Evangelisation. This time it is a Bishop by marriage not by ordination.

Pope Francis is alert to the need for evangelisation. Nearly every

day on *ZENIT The world seen from Rome* email report, there is mention of Pope Francis speaking about evangelisation. As an evangelising Avon lady I am very much aware of the lack of peace and hope in our world. As an active parishioner I am also aware of the decreasing numbers at Mass. For a start, Catholics need to be aware of the treasure we have available to us in the Eucharist. Next, we need to reveal what seems to be the best kept secret – that God loves us.

"So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." 1Jn.4:16
Let's work together to blab the secret, to help people experience the love of God. Let's see what we can do to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Australia. Please feel free to contact me with your inspirations and suggestions for team discernment.

I invite you to a preliminary celebration at Fr Wahid's parish:

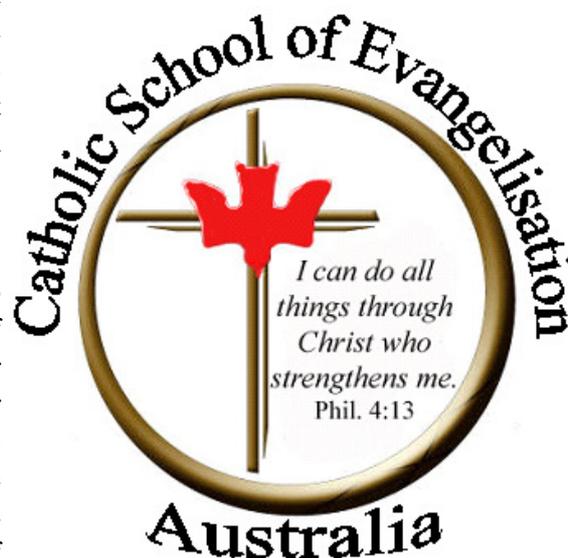
**Saturday 30th November,
9.15am Mass.**

**Celebrating the Feast of
St Andrew
at St Clement of Rome,
Egan Drive, Bulleen.**

After Mass enjoy a get together in the Clifton Centre.

I hope to see many of the old faces and to meet others who have participated in courses during my absence. It was Andrew who evangelised Peter – where would we be without Andrew? Where would you be had you not attended a Catholic School of Evangelisation course? Come and join us, who knows where we will be in another 20 years!

Sandra Bishop



Kerygma and Reconciliation

Immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit in power on the day of Pentecost, Peter as head of the apostles, was transformed into the bold evangelizer. He preached the Kerygma of Jesus' death and resurrection. The people were convicted and responded with feeling:

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2, 37-38

This event in the early Church is a lesson for all evangelisation. The Kerygma proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit and with signs following, leads the listener to ask the question, *What must I do?* The answer remains the same, *Repent and be baptized and you will receive the Holy Spirit.* However today there are many who are baptised but not converted. This situation demands a way forward, and it is by way of sacramental confession or reconciliation.

Pope Benedict in his letter *The Sacrament of Love*, (no 20) quotes some of the fathers of the Church, like St John Damascene and St Gregory Nazianzen that 'reconciliation works in a certain way like baptism, ... the outcome of the process of conversion is also the restoration of full ecclesial communion, expressed in a return to the Eucharist.' Pope Benedict also writes something we recognise in our difficult work of evangelisation. 'We know that the faithful are surrounded by a culture that tends to eliminate the sense of sin, and to promote a superficial

approach that overlooks the need to be in a state of grace in order to approach sacramental communion worthily.' The Pope also writes with perceptiveness, 'The loss of consciousness of sin always entails a certain superficiality in the understanding of God's love.' We cannot really appreciate the love that God has for me and you individually, if we make light of our sins which offend God. Here is a direct link in three steps of the Kerygma as the School of Evangelisation teaches it: The love of God, Sin and the need for faith and conversion, which sacramentally takes place in confession or reconciliation. I myself try to make a monthly confession.

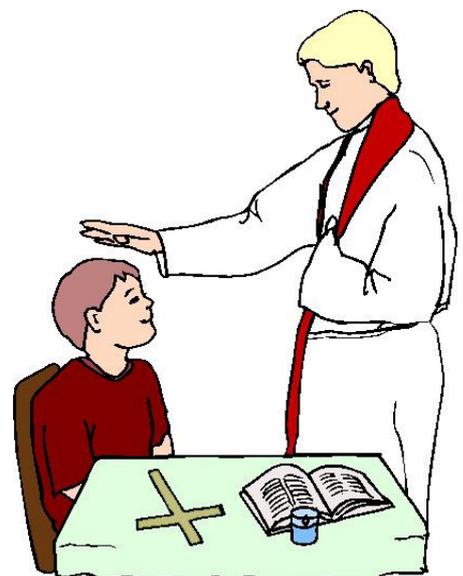
Some time ago when praying with someone I expressed what I would say, was a word of wisdom, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The person was very unhappy and others around the person were also very unhappy. The word I expressed was that there had been many mistakes, meaning sins. The person was 'cut to the heart' and agreed. I encouraged that person to confess as soon as possible. When I met the person again after confession, I could see a change in the face and those around feeling more at ease.

I did the course of *Formation of Evangelisers, (Paul)*, in Rome, in 1994. One of the teachers there reminded us that of all the steps in the Kerygma, *God's love, Sin, Salvation, Faith & Conversion, the Holy Spirit and Church Community*, the most difficult step to convince people of was 'sin'. Yet, the more holy people are, the more they sense themselves to be sinners, falling short of the standards of God. I have found the same in my evangelising work.

Sin seems to be a dirty word. Very few Catholics, even devout ones, do not seem to go to the sacrament of reconciliation very often. However the deeper our conversion from sin and our faith and trust in the saving work of Jesus, the more we realise our need to confess.

In the Catholic Catechism we are taught 'The Lord Jesus..... has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation'. That is the purpose of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to heal and to save. One of the best things we can do to help people to conversion, is to guide them to a wise priest who will be able to be the instrument of healing and salvation through this sacrament of penance and forgiveness of sins. Every time a Christian reasonably asks for this sacrament the priest is required to make himself available. He is the sign and instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner. (CC 1421, 1464-5) We need to pray for people to make good use of the sacrament, but more importantly attend to this healing and saving sacrament often ourselves.

Adrian Commadeur



THE EMMAUS JOURNEY

“Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32

On the week-end of 26-27th October, 2013, a group of 23 young and not so young participants from the Randwick Prayer Group in the Sydney Diocese, participated in the Emmaus Course held at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



Monastery, Kensington. The presenters were Lucy & Eddie Grasso, Jill Seymour and Michael van Ommen from the CSOE Sydney Team and Jane & Brad Wiedersehn from the CSOE Wollongong Team.

The Emmaus Course provides an in-depth appreciation of the Word of God as explained by Jesus to the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Through 7 images in each session, the participants learnt what the Word is, what effect it has on us and how to respond to it to make it come alive. The highlight of the Course was when they participated in a Synagogue drama presentation bringing them in touch with the Prophecies, Events and Characters of the Old Testament that prefigured the Messiah.

There was an overwhelming sense of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all present, being convicted and cut to the heart like a two-edged sword, bringing healing and a deep longing to venerate and

appreciate the Word of God more powerfully. Some of the comments made: *“Made me want to learn more about the Scriptures; Helped me appreciate the Grand Plan of Salvation; Strengthened my faith; Helped me pick up my bible*

again; Testimonies were excellent and helped me to be edified to see people grow in faith.”

On behalf of the CSOE Teams, we thank Sulyni Tan, leader, and all the members of the Randwick Prayer Group who hosted this week-end, the Music Ministry who ministered to us in Praise and Worship, Sebastian our chef who nourished our bodies with delicious meals. We also thank Fr Tony O’Brien and Fr Bill Cunningham who attended the Course and celebrated the Emmaus Mass helping us, like the two disciples, to open our eyes at the ‘breaking of the bread’ and the ‘breaking of the Word.’ We thank Bro Jack and most of all Fr Peter Guy, Superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Kensington, for the hospitality shown to us in the true spirit of our Emmaus Journey.

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105

Lucy Grasso - Co-ordinator CSOE Sydney

KOINONIA SISTERS VISIT

Three consecrated sisters from the Koinonia John the Baptist community visited Australia in October-November this year. In keeping with the International character of the Koinonia the sisters are Miriam, a Polish sister who lives in the Czech Rep; Judita, a Slovak who lives in Italy; and Sonia, an Italian who is about to move to Ireland!

The sisters have been the guests of the Australian Koinonia based in Wonthaggi, Victoria and while they have spend most of their time in Gippsland they have visited Brisbane and, at the time of



writing, are preparing for a trip to Adelaide. During their stay they have visited a number of Prayer Groups and helped at a Moses course in Traralgon (Vic) and a Joshua course in Cranbourne (Vic). They are also planning to present a Joshua course to Koinonia members and parishioners in Wonthaggi.

While the Australian Koinonia is very small, it continues to grow and the dream is very much alive for a permanent community of consecrated brothers and sisters to be established in Australia in the very near future.

Pat Kelly

TOWARDS A NEW CHURCH . . . by Len Forster

We Have A Need

In the vision of prominent and respected theologian Fr. Avery Dulles S.J. (since deceased.) as declared in his work twenty years ago, *John Paul II and the New Evangelisation* (New York: Fordham University, 1992), "The first and highest priority is for the Church to proclaim the good news concerning Jesus Christ as a joyful message to the whole world". In the current state of the world it can now be seen that the need has become even more urgent.. The enigma presenting itself is that while enormous advancements have been accomplished in many fields such as technology, health care, human values, intrinsic rights and relationships, in fact the real peace, satisfaction and happiness of the human race is deteriorating, not improving.

On One Hand

A look at this world in the aspects of human endeavour presents a dilemma perhaps more puzzling than any we have known in the history of mankind. The level of skill learning and technological development is at a height and sophistication greater than humanity has ever previously achieved. Computers not only perform tasks in nanoseconds (a billionth of a second), but everyday telecommunication devices allow us to view simultaneously events happening on the other side of the globe and we can even travel around the world in a few hours. Why! We have even put a man on the moon.

Our understanding of people, physical health and wellbeing and many of the psychological factors which affect all of us is highly advanced. In addition, more of the population both in number and proportion acknowledge and profess, at least as lip service, the intrinsic value, equality and rights of each and every individual. This brings with it an acknowledgement of the necessity for fairness and justice to everyone without discrimination.

Yet! People Have Problems

Flying in the face of all this advantage, people personally, in community and as nations, are exploited and discriminated against. Even worse many nations around the world are under the yoke of war and/or terrorism. Attempts to right this inequality and correct discrimination have met with scant success. Argument, disagreement, dispute and violence abound at all levels.

In their own countries, many communities live in fear of crime and violence not only in the streets but also in their own homes. In daily life many people are offended by public discourtesy and disrespect. Open displays of injudicious or dishonest actions and immoral and sexually explicit behaviour give outrage to people who care for and respect the rights of and fairness to others. In addition, increasing impact is being felt by individuals, community, institutions and government from the misuse of alcohol and drugs as an escape mechanism to avoid unpleasant or overbearing life situations resulting from both personal and community failings. It seems that mankind in its advanced knowledge and ingenuity is finding bigger and better ways of proliferating evil.

Even where community example should be given by public figures and 'so called' sports men and women, their actions are brought into disrepute through unethical behaviour, drug use, cheating or both.

Business, industrial companies, financial institutions and service organisations are being caught out in dishonest practices, bribery, blatant breach of agreements and fraud, with increasing frequency. Marketing and advertising can be seen as patently dishonest and often beyond the scope of regulation to control or remedy it. Government itself is unable to bear scrutiny and even politicians, elected representatives of the people, cannot be trusted or believed because of transparent untruth and dishonesty to a degree that may be described as political bankruptcy.

A Clue To Cause

The so called Global Financial Crisis created by these economic failures is perhaps the only measurable symptom of this crisis and certainly the clue to its underlying cause. At the root of this dilemma is greed, selfishness, pride and dishonesty of whole populations, where material possessions, money, pleasure and social advantage are the only goals of individuals, governments, corporations and businesses at all levels. All the worldly knowledge of professional experts, with all the technology at their disposal and even through the use of previously tried and successful strategies has been unable to solve the problem. The inescapable conclusion is that they are not addressing the core of the problem. And this is right! The root of this failure is a moral breakdown. It is a secularisation where people at all levels in their pride and arrogance are relying on their own power to produce solutions, rather than praying in humility to ask their God for help. The problem is therefore not a physical problem but a God crisis. Since the problem is one of basic principles of behaviour; it will not be solved until the public generally comes to know and trust the love and perfect plan enclosed by and in the word of God.

The True Solution

As Catholics we are blessed with the ability to know and enjoy the full depth of joy and satisfaction ordained for us by our creator God, albeit currently diminished by the state of the secular world. We know that the true dimension of love is revealed to us by Christ's salvation. Furthermore the divine power of God is enabled to work among his people when we, his beloved people, are willing to take up the journey of the redeeming cross with Jesus. The conduct of our lives must therefore follow in the example of our saviour. Certainly the secular logic of this world in its seeking an easy comfortable life will never unlock the path to the real life of happiness available in our inner beings through the love of God. **It is the experience of God's love that counts, not our acquired knowledge.** This explains why it is 'it is in giving that we receive' and why 'it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to real life'.

Continued . . . P.7

TOWARDS A NEW CHURCH Continued

It is however, sad to say that, at this present time, even Catholics live their lives with scant if any regard to the teachings of their Church. Our conduct should be a witness to the love of Christ, yet we cannot be distinguished from others in the love and care we bear our neighbour, or in observable morality or in prayerful behaviour..

Powerful Hope For Future

Despite the ominous indications discussed above, there is a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit discernible, which if seized by the faithful could serve to bring about the rectification of all our current ills. The twentieth century may truly be called the century of the Holy Spirit. On January 1, 1901, Pope Leo XIII prayed publicly for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That very day a manifestation of the Holy Spirit was recorded at a bible school in Topeka, Kansas. Just a few years later in 1906, the Pentecostal movement began at revival meetings held at Azusa Street in Los Angeles. It has since spread throughout the whole world.

In 1962 Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council, which laid the foundation for the Church to return to the original spiritual focus of its early centuries and reactivate its openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. A refocus on the evangelisation that enabled it to spread to the whole world was also necessary. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement developed during the following years and it has since spread to the whole world.

Pope Paul VI confirmed the importance of evangelisation in the power of the Holy Spirit with his encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi* and this imperative became a prominent plank in the activities of his successors, those great pontiffs, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.. The Schools of Evangelisation drew its foundation and inspiration from the exhortations of these popes. The official direction of the Church towards evangelisation was further enhanced by a general synod of bishops called by Pope Benedict in 2012. A selection from the commentary by Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington D.C., the general relator of that synod, as reported in an article by John Flynn, LC, (Zenit.org, Rome, February 2013), includes the following:

“The past few decades were a period of great upheaval, but we are in a new moment in the life of the Church and are moving in the right direction.”

“A characteristic of the synod was the unity among the bishops and that it was clear all of the bishops present shared a profound unity of faith and a common conviction of the need for the new evangelization.”

“This task involves not only proclaiming the gospel message to those who do not know Jesus Christ, but also helping those

already evangelized to rediscover their faith and to return to religious practice.”

“This new evangelization starts with the experience of Jesus Christ. Then, this love for Jesus and the Gospel is something to be shared with others. The Church’s primary mission is evangelization.”

“It is important to realize, that this duty to proclaim the saving truth we find in Christ is not just the responsibility of clergy and religious. Citing Vatican II he insisted on the vital role the laity has in giving testimony to their faith and of announcing to others the message of Christ.”

“Even though Paul VI had also identified the need for a new period of evangelization, it was John Paul II who can be called the father of the new evangelization. In his numerous trips to all parts of the world and in all the different languages he spoke he carried out a worldwide ministry to the ends of the earth.”

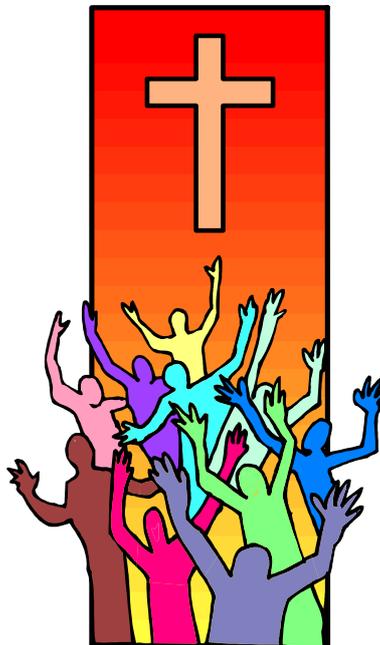
“There is a real and urgent need for the new evangelization today. We live our faith in the midst of a culture that is highly secular. This limited secular view of life has dramatically changed the context in which we live and transmit our faith.”

“We are now in a situation where there are two generations of Catholics who lack knowledge of prayer, who do not perceive the importance of the Mass and the Sacrament of Penance, and who have often lost a sense of the transcendent.”

A Call To Action

The circumstances are rife for the Catholic faithful, clergy, religious and laity to hear and heed the message in this pivotal time of need for both the Church and for all the people of the world. We, in the Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia are in a unique position because we have for nearly twenty years realised the importance of evangelisation and the urgent need of the world to come to know God. While very few Catholics generally are aware of this need for evangelisation, we graduates of the schools are and we also know from our training the principles involved and how to implement them. There must be more than a thousand past pupils in Australia equipped and ready to carry out the most important task we will ever do. In addition sister organisations of evangelisation in other countries of the world have been active and are similarly placed. Should we and all of those take up the challenge and act together, the whole effect will be powerful.

Later this year functions will be arranged to bring past graduates together to plan our concerted action. Further details will be available as planning progresses. We urge each and every school collectively and each pupil individually to pray fervently for the grace and direction to seize this powerful initiative.



Moses Course - Traralgon

Over two weekends in October I, along with 20+ others attended the Moses School presented by the School of Evangelisation.

I had already attended a Moses School several years ago. I found that the second time round I absorbed much more than I did the first time.

We journeyed with Moses from his birth through his Egyptian years, his time in Midian, his return to Egypt, the desert years and finally to his seeing the Promised Land from a distance but not being allowed to enter it.

We were able to see that Moses life is a mirror of ours. Like him we have desert and oasis times. We, like Moses, make decisions that are good but they are our plans not God's and are doomed to fail. We make excuses why we cannot do what God calls us to even though we have had a 'burning bush' experience! We give up, say it is too hard. It would be better to go back to our old life [slavery] than continue the journey even though God has told us that He loves us and will be with us every step of the way. He is so good and always forgives when we ask Him.

Some other things we learnt were that we all need collaborators and helpers like Joshua and Aaron in our life. God is our very best friend but we need friends 'with skin on', people that we can be 'real' with. We need to have a vision of the Promised Land and live lives that reflect our vision. Like Moses we also should walk humbly with our God bringing people along with us on our journey.

A couple of quotes I liked: The beginning is never easy. God writes straight on crooked lines. The only one God sends away empty is the person full of themselves.

Altogether a great learning experience and thanks to all the team.

Dorothy Smith

What Can We Do To Evangelise?

The sad truth in the Catholic Church is that the Popes and Bishops teach us wonderfully well about the need, the methods, the zeal for evangelisation. They ask that we pray for evangelisation, that we run conferences and schools and courses on evangelisation, that we devote special years of evangelisation, but few of us actually evangelise. It reminds me of the story of the man who once caught a fish, was applauded for it, began to run courses on fishing, became an international conference speaker on fishing, but never fished again, and no-one else who heard him speak did either.

How can we change this attitude where we delight in sharing about the things of the world and fear to share the things of God?

The first step is to be convinced of the urgency to save sinners from hell and for their eternal salvation. For this we need the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us and remember our own blessings.

The second step is to know what we must say to those who do not believe or are searching for God. This includes the knowledge and ability and the courage to share the six steps of the Kerygma of Jesus. We can make ourselves familiar with an evangelising conversation backed by scriptural passages.

The third step is to ask the Lord for evangelising opportunities. If we ask for them we will also be alert to them when they occur in the shopping centre, on public transport, at social functions, such as weddings!

The fourth step is to 'just do it'! With the help of the Holy Spirit, in an attitude of prayer, and with courage, we open up a conversation, or respond in a conversation and speak the words of salvation in person to person evangelisation.

This is the practice of one of the graduates of the School and he almost daily is able to share some part of the gospel message with the girl at the check out, with a fellow traveller, with a shop assistant. There is no substitute for it. Just do it—for Jesus.

Adrian Commadeur.

Our new National Director, Sandra Bishop looking very uncomfortable as a 'wheelbarrow god' in the Moses course.



*If we are too busy to pray,
We are busier than God wants us to be.*

HOUSE OF PRAYER – THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE

In July 2008 I was in Brisbane sitting under a palm tree enjoying the beautiful tropical sunshine of the Queensland winter when a friend of mine gave me a copy of a little booklet called “House of Prayer – A fishing net.” The booklet had been produced by some group I had never heard of called Koinonia John the Baptist. I read the booklet and told my friend I thought this would be a wonderful way to evangelise and I was really interested. Five minutes later she handed me the phone and said it was a friend of hers. I found myself talking to someone called Cinzia who was in Rome, and I was accepting an invitation to learn about the House of Prayer at the International School of Evangelisation. Cinzia Fallini had moved from Brisbane in the 1990’s to join Koinonia but she still had family in Australia.

Next thing I knew it was November and I was in Tepla in the Czech Republic with snow everywhere, I even made my first snowball! I studied the courses of the School of Evangelisation and came back to Australia ready to start a House of Prayer.

There was my wife and myself and one man, a Sudanese refugee. We met every week all through 2009 but we didn’t seem to have much success attracting anyone else. However I realised that I had just seen the House of Prayer as a method of evangelisation when it was something more. My wife and I talked about this and come to the conclusion that there was something missing, it was the community aspect, what was missing was Koinonia! It wasn’t enough just for me to have experienced the School of Evangelisation, both of us, together as husband and wife, needed to



experience Koinonia.

So in March 2010 we travelled to Italy and spent two months with the Koinonia in Rome and Camparino and we visited other groups in Italy, Czech Rep and Ireland. Then we came back home and started our House of Prayer again! This time we had a little more success but not much and certainly I was getting very discouraged and spiritually dry. Then I thought about Fr Ricardo, the founder of the Koinonia John the Baptist community, he started out with a group of friends first and then the House of Prayer grew out of that. With that in mind we started holding a monthly get together of our friends, mainly people from House of Prayer and the Charismatic Renewal and we prayed and had a meal together and they supported us. These gatherings served the purpose of encouraging us to persevere. Also Anselmo Ruspicioni from Italy visited in October and taught us a lot about how a House of Prayer is supposed to be conducted, we had tended more towards Bible sharing rather than kerygmatic testimony.

During 2011 we kept in touch with the Koinonia. Anne and I visited Europe on separate occasions and Anselmo Ruspicioni came to visit again in October. At this time we made a very big step forward. Up until now we hadn’t joined Koinonia John the Baptist. The House of Prayer was just something we were interested in and while we felt the call of the

Lord to Koinonia we hadn’t actually made a commitment. During Anselmo’s visit we formally joined the Koinonia John the Baptist and Koinonia was no longer them over there on the other side of the world, it was us here! The House of Prayer wasn’t just something we could take or leave it was something we had made a commitment to. I don’t know why but that commitment made a real difference.

I can’t say that we had a great wave of evangelisation but by 2012 we had two Houses of Prayer in our home town and also one in Brisbane and one in Adelaide. Also Cinzia visited in June and her friend, Lina, who was the inspiration for Koinonia in Australia, joined the community, so now there were three of us!

In 2012 Anselmo couldn’t visit so Bernadette Callaghan from Belfast, Christine Sawey from Czech Rep and Fr Artur Bilski, a Polish priest, from USA visited. When Fr Artur put out an invitation for people to join Koinonia, I was amazed when four people from the House of Prayer put their hands up and said yes, so now we are seven. And now are opening another House of Prayer in Melbourne.

For us personally the blessing of the House of Prayer has been to call us to commitment and perseverance. I often think of the two animals on the Australian Coat of Arms, the kangaroo and the emu. The interesting thing about these animals is that they can’t walk backwards they can only walk forwards; they can’t retreat they can only advance! So please God we can advance with the Houses of Prayer right across Australia.

Pat Kelly.

(Written for the Polish magazine of the Koinonia John the Baptist.)

A LETTER OF LOVE

Dear Son,

This letter is in response to your concern that I might teach or brainwash your children with a belief in something that has no grounds or reasoning to it. So please have an open heart to my following effort to explain.

We can work out by reason and deduct that a spiritual world exists by just looking at love. Love isn't a physical thing like an object we can touch and see. We can see and feel the effects of it, but it isn't physical, nor is it a feeling or emotion because we have to make a decision to love, that is to do or bring good to another person despite our feelings or emotions and that decision may even mean hardship or suffering for ourselves. Yet love isn't something of the mind like knowledge and it defies reason. Human / animal instinct is self-preservation, but love can cause a person to forget themselves, suffer or even die in order to do what is best for another person they have decided to love. Love is a spirit and that unconditional love we call God. He lives within us. We see the effects of love all around us in charities etc. Sometimes people call sex, passion, romance or self-indulgence love, but these things are just what the words themselves say.

Just as the spirit of Love / God is alive and active so too is the spirit of evil we call the devil, but often under the disguise of being good. You can tell the difference by looking at the fruits or end result. Evil always ends in suffering and hardship for people. So from our experience of love and the opposite we know that the spiritual life is a reality. Scripture tells us about God's unconditional love for us, but we are convicted

through our experience. Faith is the acknowledgement of that experience. There are many levels of faith and it grows by exercising it. Faith isn't something airy-fairy but a belief in the Spirit of God / Love that is as real as the air we breathe, which we also can't see, just like electricity, but we know they are real by what they produce.

Do other religions have a basis that is logical or reasonable? Or are they based on feelings and emotions etc? Some like Buddhism try to convince people they are Gods themselves, that through meditation and willpower they are in control.

It is also obvious that people who acknowledge their experiences of God's unconditional love and talk to Him as their personal friend have enjoyed strength and help in times of hardship as well as peace in their daily lives. These things you cannot buy, they are spiritual. On the other hand a failure to acknowledge the love of God can result in much hardship, suffering or a feeling of helplessness and lack of peace.

When I was your age and rearing a family I couldn't explain my faith as I have done now to you. Like a lot of people I just knew it was good and true. Over the years I have grown in knowledge and worked through it so that I now understand better what I had earlier felt in my heart. This journey is something everyone has to do for themselves. Some try to ignore this spiritual reality, but at some stage they have to face it even if it is on their death bed.

My love always, Mum.

Personal Prayer Course, Cowes, Vic.



Pat Kelly (back left) with participants

During July the Personal Prayer course was presented to the Prayer Group at St Mary's in Cowes (Vic).

The Personal Prayer course is a very simple course designed to help participants to incorporate the praying of scripture into their everyday prayer.

The course at Cowes was presented over three sessions as part of their normal prayer meeting and this seemed to work very well. The group was small but very friendly and keen to get more into the Bible and to experience the power of God's Word in their daily life.

It is always a joy to work with Charismatic Prayer Groups and I feel this Personal Prayer course would be a blessing to any Prayer Group, as well as any other parish group for that matter.

Pat Kelly

GIDEON'S ARMY

As usual I want to encourage you to continue to be generous, and in fact to be even more generous in your support of your parish, the poor and the work of evangelisation. But I also want to offer a practical suggestion especially for those who have not joined Gideon's Army because of the understandable problem of being able to put aside \$100 for this project.

As we have seen previously the model Jesus holds up to us is the poor widow found in the Gospels of Mark (Ch.12:41-44) and Luke (Ch.21:1-4). She dropped two small coins, worth about a penny, into the Temple Treasury. Well we don't have halfpennies anymore (I'm revealing my age when I say that I remember them!) but we do have a small coin worth two dollars. What I want to do is make a practical suggestion.

We ask members of Gideon's Army to contribute \$100 each year to support the work of the School. The problem, of course, is that sometimes it is very difficult to put together a hundred dollars in any one week,

however to find two dollars is possible most weeks. My suggestion is that this two dollar coin be your "widow's mite" and that you get yourself a money box or jar and put two dollars in each week. You don't have to be a mathematical genius to work out that at the end of a year you will have \$100 (\$104 actually but we won't get too technical). This is something that the Brisbane people have done and they even have a special SOE money box. Of course we know that this idea has been successfully used by Project Compassion for many years.



Thanks again for all those who support the SOE financially, not just through Gideon's Army, but in other donations of money and kind. God bless

Pat Kelly

Attention! Attention!

Like our new Face book page.

Join our community and keep in touch with other School of Evangelisation graduates.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-School-of-Evangelisation-Australia/159676367450609?ref=hl>

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 style="text-align: center;">GIDEON'S ARMY</p> <p>Please enrol me/us in Gideon's Army:</p> <p>NAME (or NAME OF GROUP).....</p> <p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>TELEPHONE: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;"><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 style="text-align: center;">Thank you for filling out this form!</p> <p>Please make cheques payable to: School of Evangelisation, and return them to:</p> <p>GIDEON'S ARMY School of Evangelisation P.O. Box 168 Wonthaggi, Vic. 3995</p> <p>Enquiries: Pat Kelly ph. (03) 5672 2772</p>
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THE WITNESS

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Catholic School of Evangelisation

You are invited to

Celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew

**Saturday the 30th November,
9.30am Mass**

**at St. Clement of Rome Church,
Egan Drive, Bulleen.**

**After Mass enjoy a get together in
the Clifton Centre.**

B.Y.O. Lunch.

It is 20 years since the School of St. Andrew (Mexico) came to Australia to present courses to the Italian community.

2014 marks the 20th Anniversary of the course held at Burwood, the first English speaking course held worldwide.

Enquiries: Sandra E Bishop,
Ph. 9434 7553

Email: sandraebishop@optusnet.com.au

Catholic Charismatic Renewal

ARE YOU SON RIPENED?

Is the nature of Jesus becoming more evident in our lives?

A Retreat by Bishop Colin Campbell, Dunedin NZ

**13-17th January 2014
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