



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

March 2016 Newsletter

God's Economy Wastes No Opportunity

By Sandra Bishop

We have an exciting time ahead! I am always amazed at God's economy and how He writes straight on crooked lines – call them 'happy accidents' or 'God incidents' whatever you prefer. Like the way God arranged the seating on my last trip to Adelaide, right next to a lady in need of prayer support. It is so encouraging when these things happen because they remind us just who is in charge.

In 2010 I was very blessed to be on a "Footsteps of St Paul" pilgrimage through Greece, Turkey and Malta. Our chaplain was Fr Donal McIlraith SSC; BA (University of Dublin), LSS (Biblicum, Rome), STD (Gregorian University Rome); lecturer in Biblical Studies, Hebrew and Greek on holiday from the Fiji Seminary. Fr Donal has the ability to explain theological concepts in a way that it is easy to understand. Our pilgrimage took us into the cave on the island of Patmos where St John received the vision of the Apocalypse. Fr Donal explained that he was preparing a book on the Apocalypse or Book of Revelation. In 2011 I discovered Fr Donal was going to be the chaplain on a pilgrimage to Jordan and Israel, thankfully I was able to join him again and learn so much more from him than I had on a previous pilgrimage there. We

kept in touch, on an irregular basis via email. When I told him of my return to the CSOE he sent me a copy of his completed book "Everyone's Apocalypse" and suggested that we might be able to use it some way in the CSOE.

For a year, maybe more, we lost contact. I was exploring the possibility of his coming to give us a course and I was hearing nothing back from my emails. Finally, I thought of contacting a mutual acquaintance and sure enough he had a new email address for Fr Donal. His computer had been hacked and he had lost all his contacts. Almost instantly he replied back in his lovely Irish way complementing me on my 'detective' work and adding: "I am happy to be found".

So plans are afoot for 2 days with Fr Donal on 11th & 12th November – stay tuned for further details for the 'The Apocalypse and the New Evangelisation'.

To my surprise when I received an email from a priest forwarded to me by the person I had asked to book a venue for Fr Donal's visit, the dates were in March and not November. We had been waiting for a few months for a venue for a "John the Beloved Disciple" course in Lent in Melbourne. I'm sure



Rev. Dr. Donal McIlraith
SSC

you have guessed the rest. We have a few more opportunities for God to manifest his loving care on the March course and I look forward to giving Him the glory and praise when I report on them in a forthcoming edition.

Bishop Joe's "Dream so big that the dream will fail if God is not in it" is very liberating. It helps us to understand that it does not all depend on "us". If you are in a situation that seems impossible, stay tuned to the Holy Spirit and prepare for God to write straight on crooked lines and bring about the seemingly impossible.

Read on how God is using graduates of the CSOE in many ways to spread the Good News.



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School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the formation of evangelising parishes by offering a formation program which:

- ▶ FORMS DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAINS EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISHES PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS.

The Left Field of God

By Margaret Trainor

Well I know that Scripture...“The Word of God is alive and active...” yet somehow I didn’t apply it to myself in the context of evangelising a broad body. Through my own experience and having done the School of Evangelisation many years ago, I have always been aware that the Word is powerful and accomplishes it’s purpose. However, I never saw my primary call as to be an evangeliser of the Word.

So after my recent retreat in January I was seeking the Lord’s direction in what I was to do in my call as a Spiritual Director. And as God does, He really surprised me... it came to me that I should write a blog as a Spiritual Director....

The left field of our God is so disarming really.

At first it made no sense. It came to my heart not my head. Yes, I would have to really step out of the comfortable boat and walk on the water. I know nothing about blogs....I am not in the blogosphere....I can protest...to what avail...it was clear this was a call.

So I started. And on Feb 2 with no ado, we – that is the Holy Spirit and I – launched into the deep and yet public domain. <http://creative-spiritual-directions.com>

In less than three weeks I have had views and “visits” from China, Russia, India, USA, Hong Kong and of course, Australia.



All I can say is it is all His work and unless it is built on Him it will not prosper. It is not up to me. I am just the conduit. So I am adding to my days and nights in a very new realm of the Spirit and web. Two parishes in Victoria have told me they will put it into their newsletter!!! God is certainly going ahead of me to accomplish His will and His way. All glory be to Him.

So I invite you to also look at the site and just maybe promote it in your parish, school or home, because as I have already been told – ‘Wow! My son looks at that site when nothing else seems to interest him.’

It is all Good News.

Author: Margaret Trainor is a spiritual director, qualified through Heart of Life, Melbourne and currently undertaking her Masters in Therapeutic Arts. She is a graduate of CSOE.



Pope Francis and Evangelisation by Lay People

At the recent Synod on the Family in Rome Pope Francis said: *In the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium I stressed that “all the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelisation carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients”. And “even the Flock has a certain “nose” for discerning the new ways the Lord makes known to the Church”.*

(Synod Oct 2015)

Pope Francis makes some important points. All baptised persons are agents of evangelisation, not just the professionals like missionaries or bishops. It does not matter if the lay people do not have an official position in the Church, the role of evangelisation still falls on them. The lay people do not have to be highly educated in the faith to be able to evangelise. The Pope has a real confidence in lay people to be ‘innovative’ too!

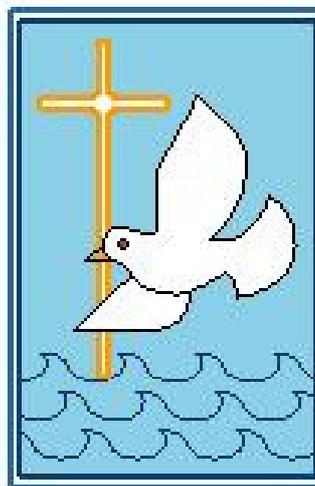
The Holy Father here speaks about the person who evangelises. But we know from experience that we must have some ideas on what to say to people. This is where the six steps of the Kerygma are a great help. They are like lights in a line, leading the person to conversion, like a ship sailing safely into port. These six steps are:

- 1) The love and mercy of God;
- 2) The reality of sin in our lives;
- 3) The fact Jesus died to redeem us from sin;
- 4) Our need to believe what Jesus did and to repent of personal sin;
- 5) Our need to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, and
- 6) An invitation to join the Eucharistic community of faith and love.

In practice, I adapt the six steps to suit the occasion or opportunity. So I try to lead people into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Pope Francis told the Priests’ Retreat in Rome in June 2015: *“I ask each and everyone of you that as part of the current of grace of Catholic Charismatic Renewal you organise seminars of life in the Spirit in your parishes, seminaries and schools, in neighbourhoods, to share the Baptism in the Spirit: it is catechesis... so that it produces, by the work of the Holy Spirit, a personal encounter with Jesus, who changes our life.”* The Life in the Spirit seminar follows the key points of the Kerygma.

A couple in Torquay were so inspired by the Pope’s request to priests, that they went to their parish priest to ask if they could have a talk about the Charismatic Renewal. I was privileged to share on the Holy Spirit mission in the Church today. At the end of the talk I invited those present to respond to the message and receive prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit. About twenty people responded as we prayed a prayer of repentance of sin and seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit.



There was a wonderful sense of the presence of God, and two people were instantly healed as well.

We pray that the Lord will give us opportunities to evangelise, whether in public or private, as Pope Francis asks of us.

Adrian Commadeur

EVERYDAY EVANGELISATION

Evangelisation first begins when we **accept God’s Word** into our life. Then you proclaim that word to others by living it out in service and witness.

Whenever possible you **share your story** of Jesus in your life, and then **invite others** to deepen their relationship with Christ through the Church community.

(Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 1975)

My Mission Experience – Antony Kalapurackal (Adelaide, Australia)

He said to them,
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15)

When you decide to follow Jesus and say 'yes' to Him, your life will no longer be the same. It is wonderful to step out from yourself and watch as a third person, how the Lord uses you when you surrender to His will.

Here I would like to share with you the latest episode of His work in me. By God's grace I got a unique chance to be with the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a Catholic missionary and share God's love with them.

I travelled to PNG along with my friends Sojin (Darwin), Roby (Canberra) and Niju (Canberra) to PNG on New Year's Day of 2016 (what a wonderful start to a year!!) to share the Love of God with them. We were sent by Jesus Youth Australia (a missionary movement at the service of Church). Our mission was supported by very strong intercession by Jesus Youth (JY) members all over Australia.



PNG is geographically diverse in nature and most of the 'highlands', a spine of mountains can be reached only by air. It was astonishing to hear the fact that the people in the highlands were in the stone-age just 60 years ago. In their culture, the wealth of a person is measured by the number of pigs he owns. In order to marry, a man has to give a certain number of pigs (and money) to the woman. Multiple marriages are allowed and a man is considered powerful if he has many wives. One of the Parish Priests we met mentioned that there was a person with 19 wives in his parish. Polygamy is a deeply rooted cultural trait.

Our program was conducted with the whole support of the Port Moresby and Mendi diocese. Bishop Donald Lippert was extremely supportive. We started with a 2 day retreat in Port Moresby, the capital city and then travelled to Koroba, a parish of the Mendi diocese, in the highlands region for a convention. Interestingly, we had to change our travel plans as the 'Tari' airport was closed due to the tribal war. Instead we



The missionaries with Bishop Donald

travelled to Mount Hagen airport and travelled an entire day by road to reach the venue. To our surprise there were 330 young people from different parishes of Hela province waiting for us. The Parish Priest told us that some of the people present there, had not visited the Church for years (thanks to the month's long intercession by JY members and hard work of the priests). After the 4 day long convention, we travelled to 'Hariba' an outstation of 'Magarima' Parish. We reached the station after a 2.5 hr walk and spent a day and half there sharing God's love with them. Then we returned to the Magarima church and conducted a leadership program for the 'Magarima' youth who had attended the convention. Finally we went to Mendi to attend the ordination of Brother Harry. Ordination is a very big cultural event for the diocese with thousands of people attending the program as it is very rare in PNG. With Bishop's permission we did a half hour program for the big audience and conducted the evening Adoration for the people gathered for the program.

“For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken.” (Luke 5:9)

Throughout the program we were witnessing the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. We were overwhelmed with the response of the participants. Everywhere we witnessed many physical healings. We had to intervene and stop the endless testimonies after the convention. Some people approached the Parish Priests and told them they abandoned the drugs they were using for years. A number of young people communicated their strong desire to become a priest. During the ordination many Parish Priests communicated their surprise and joy about the changes in the youth in their parish after the convention.



My Mission Experience – Continued

When you say 'yes' to a mission trip God uses you in a powerful way to build the Kingdom of God. However, the most important thing is the changes that happen in you. You will no longer be the same person. Here, I would like to list a few takeaways I had from the trip.

Conversion of hearts is 'His' business

“Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say.”

(Matthew 10:19)

The One who created heaven and earth, the One who knows the ins and outs of you, the One who knows the needs of the person to whom you are talking, knows what is the best for him and for you. Conversion of hearts is His business. He will do it in style. You just say, “Yes Lord, here I am”, be an obedient servant and watch the show with open eyes as a third person.

How shallow is my faith

“You of little faith”, He said, “Why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31)



Instead we shared our lives. If we say 'God loves us' we tell them the incidents in our lives where we felt the intense love of God. If we say 'Jesus is Saviour' we tell them how this salvation is personalised in my life. If we say the Holy Spirit guides us, we say how he guided me. When we talk about mother Mary we say why she is so important in our life. The impact of testimonies was huge.

Importance of Discipline

During the mission days we had a habit of waking up 4:30 am in the early morning. We spent one hour together in praise and worship before we started the program. Regardless of how late we were in bed, we woke up in time. The Lord gave us the grace to live with it. I believe a disciplined life is one of the most important aspects if you want to be a true follower of Jesus.

Unity

The grace will flow if we are one in Spirit. We didn't have any conflict among ourselves during the program. I believe it was an important factor for the success of the program.

In the year of Mercy the Lord decided to show mercy to the PNG people. He showed greater mercy to us by choosing us as his instruments. Thank you Lord!!



Many times during the program I felt that the people were evangelising me, rather than vice versa. I was challenged by their faith multiple times. For example, Father Thomas and the Bishop shared the incident of the sudden death of a youth who was very active in the Parish. He was such a good person that his parents refused to mourn as they knew their son was in heaven. They requested to bury him within three days (usually the mourning lasts for at least one week). If we really believe what we preach it is highly illogical to mourn about the demise of our dear ones (especially kids).

The power of Testimonies

When I look back, one of the reasons the programs were such a success is because of the power of testimonies. We didn't tell them lots of bullet points.



A Bit of Me

By Genevieve Osei

“Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me. While the world looks upon me as I struggle along and they say I have nothing but they are so wrong, In my heart I'm rejoicing how I wish they could see. Thank you Lord for Your blessings on me.”

The lyrics of this song remind me of how far the Lord has brought me and His blessings on me. As a child of God, I must say that it is a very powerful and inspiring story to share when it comes to my faith. I strongly believe that by sharing the impact of God and Jesus in my life, I can help others come to know Him.

I was brought up in a Christian home, where the faith of my parents was passed on to me. I believed in what they believed in, and going to church was part of the family's routine, which I had to follow. I knew there was God and His beloved Son Jesus, but at that tender age all I knew about Them was that They listen to our prayers and They may send us to Hell if we do anything wrong. As I grew up in my early teenage years, my Aunt who happened to be my Godmother, managed to drag me to lots of bible studies and retreats, and as time went by I began to find the story of God more fascinating. Especially when people share their testimonies and their encounter with God. I always wanted to know more and how I could also feel His love and draw closer to Him. But first I had to soften my heart for the Word of God says in Hebrew's Chapter 3:15, *‘That if today we hear His voice we shouldn't harden our heart’*. I made a decision to open up to His merciful love and gain a deeper relationship with Him.

I made time to mostly attend retreats and Church activities that would enrich me more. I began to find my solace in the House of the Lord. My peers began to mock and tease me and call me all sort of names, the popular one which was “the church rat”. Haha!

Everything was going on well until my late teenage years, where I went through many phases



Above: Daniel Ceccon, Genevieve and Sandra Bishop

and the troubles of life, which nearly drew me away from my faith. I went through the stage where I felt rejected, disappointed and thought all hope was lost. I started asking myself questions, where is God? Can't He see what I am going through? Why is He quiet and not answering my prayers? Why? Why? Why? I

become frustrated and went to my Parish Priest to have a conversation with him. Again I asked all the whys that I can ever think of. After listening to me in my frustrations he said that it is best not to question God, life comes in stages and every stage we go through God is there with us and He knows the plans that He has for us. He encouraged me not lose hope but continue to pray and trust Him for at the right time He will make all things beautiful. He also told me the story of “The Tea cup” and I left the parish feeling encouraged and better than before, at least I left with some hope.

As days passed by and weeks turned into months things began to settle down and unravel, better doors started opening from one to another. I didn't get what I was wishing for, but the Lord blessed me with something that I least expected, which was far better than what I ever asked for. He strengthened my love for Him and Psalm 23 became my favourite prayer. Anytime I am in trouble I know that I am not alone, for He tells me in His Word that even though I walk through the valley and shadow of death I should fear no evil for He is always there with me. He also tells me that I should be still and know that He is Lord (Psalm 46:10).

I wish I could go on and on about the goodness of the Lord in my life. I would like to conclude that God knows what He is doing for us all. He is the Potter and we are His clay, He would mould us and make us so that we may be a flawless piece of work to fulfil His goodness and perfect will, Amen !!!

May His Holy name be praised forever!!

“Philip – New Life” Course: A Personal Reflection

I would like to share with you my experience of the “Philip – New Life” Course conducted by the Catholic School of Evangelisation at the CCR Centre Rozelle, Sydney, on Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November 2015. The pamphlet advertising the course told me that: “It is not so much a lecture, more an experience of the reality of God’s love providing a personal encounter with the risen Jesus and to receive a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

The course certainly lived up to this promise. It is named after Philip, a deacon in the early Church in Jerusalem and an evangelist. The most dramatic incident of his work as an evangelist was probably his encounter with an Ethiopian eunuch, whom Philip converted to Jesus (Acts 8: 26-40). The Ethiopian was obviously already a man of faith and a good man. He was also rich, respected and had a good job. Yet there was “something missing” from his life. Philip finds him reading the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, searching for answers. Philip tells him that Isaiah is referring to Jesus and leads the Ethiopian to both Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. The void within him is filled.

The two days of the course challenged the participants to examine their faith lives to see if there was “something missing” and offered help to fill the void also. The starting point was a consideration of God’s love for us. We need to feel God’s love for us and to allow ourselves to be loved by Him. God loves us because He is love. Has this really been our experience? Perhaps the blockage has been sin, which blocks out God’s love and distorts our faith vision. We were led in a moving ritual of bringing our sins to the Cross and of coming to Jesus as Saviour. Salvation is ours by faith and becomes effective when we believe in Jesus for salvation. Conversion to Jesus involves a new way of looking at things, a change of heart. It is a journey from darkness into the light.

The next part of the course involved teaching and then extensive prayer to receive the empowerment, fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. A particular emphasis was placed on the gift of healing and we were reminded that this embraces all kinds



Above: Betty Koh making her debut presentation

of healing, including physical, emotional and psychological healing as well as the healing of abuse and trauma. Finally, we were reminded that we do not live our faith in isolation – we are all bound together in a community called “Church.” The Church is not a building – it is a unity of hearts and a place of mutual support and outreach to others.

Participants’ comments:

- ▶ “*Inspirational*”
- ▶ “*I found the whole Course inspirational and re-igniting my faith*”
- ▶ “*I was blessed by the Course and would recommend it to anyone. The dedication and enthusiasm of the speakers was wonderful*”;
- ▶ “*I found a new vision of the walk with Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit*”;
- ▶ “*All teachings were filled with renewing insights and encouragement*”;
- ▶ “*I understood that Jesus died for me to save me.*”



The Parable of the Tea Cup

By Genevieve Osei

Teacup Story - God knows what He's doing (for all of us). He is the Potter, and we are His clay. He will mould us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

"Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand." ~ Jeremiah 18:6

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful stores. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially teacups. This was their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. One day in this beautiful shop they saw a beautiful teacup. They said, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."



As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke. "You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red and I was clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'Let me alone', but he only smiled, 'Not yet.'"

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the teacup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy!' I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'"

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head, 'Not yet.'"

"Finally the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better', I said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'"

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven,

not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I could see him through the opening nodding his head saying, 'Not yet.'"

Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf. One hour later he handed me a mirror and I couldn't believe it was me. "It's beautiful. I'm beautiful."

"I want you to remember, then," he said, "I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had left you alone, you would have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened; you would not have had any colour in your life. And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't survive for very long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

MORAL:

God knows what He's doing (for all of us). He is the Potter, and we are His clay. He will mould us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not tempt you beyond what you can bear; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

A Summary of Prophecies – 'Jesus in the Four Gospels - John' Course, Mt Waverley, November 2015

By Maria Benke

In the prophecy time the Lord Jesus announced His presence in no uncertain terms. He spoke a promise to help and heal, as only He can, and to lead us through the revelation of His Word.

Further, He described His gentle and tender love enveloping each one of us, and gave us an image to contemplate of manna flakes falling to the ground. This symbolized nourishment from heaven, which we receive through His Word and from the Eucharist.

We were all comforted, uplifted and inspired by His gracious and kind attention.

**No amount of
reason, rule or
resolution
will enable us to
overcome our
weaknesses.
Only the Grace
of God can.
God's Mercy !**

ART FOR EVANGELISATION

By Lucy Lilburne

Let me introduce myself. I am a full-time Christian / Catholic artist / illustrator. My goal is to exhibit / talk about my work. This could be done through social media and in person at various venues as opportunities arise.

I was raised as a Catholic but left the Church for seven years. However, in December, 1987 at 6 p.m. I had a conversion experience. Before the experience I was despairing. I describe it as being in the pit of life. I went to a prayer meeting and a couple of days later I had the conversion experience. This happened in the backyard of my home. Everything became covered in white light. My feet were on the ground and yet I felt I was soaring in the heavens. I felt the very marrow of my bones exploding with joy. I believe it was an experience of God; like a foretaste of heaven. After this experience I commenced my journey of self-awareness and healing. The experience brought about a 180 degree turn around in my life. I moved from rejecting God and Church, to coming back with a vengeance. I thank the Lord for this grace of the gift of conversion. I then felt the Lord call me to leave my seven year career as a lawyer and trust in providence. I did this for 14 years. During this time I completed a Diploma in Fine Art, Painting (1998) and a Diploma in Illustration (2000), a Theology Degree (2003), and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction (2003). I was also in voluntary church ministry for a total of 12 years. In 2002 I commenced a 12 year career as a Pastoral Associate and retired from this in October, 2014. However, I continue to minister as a spiritual director. I then felt the Lord call me back to pursue Christian art. In 2015 I did a refresher course in art. I believe it is now time for me to put my art out there. I am grateful for the opportunity to write this article in the School of Evangelisation newsletter.

One of the words I would use to describe my work is evangelistic. But under this broad heading there are sub-headings for specific works such as healing, conversion and information. Some of my work is catechetical, aims to increase awareness, is iconic, reflective, corrective, story, etc. My hope is that they are all Holy Spirit inspired.

Some samples of my work are: Portrait of Oscar Wilde. (image 1 Mixed media on board) Oscar Wilde's reputation is unsavoury and he lived an immoral life contrary to Christian morals and values. The world acclaims him for his literary works. What many people are unaware of is that Oscar Wilde, at the end of his life, converted to Catholicism. (ref.: *The Portable Oscar Wilde*, Penguin Books, Revised Edition, 1981, pg. 47)



The portrait I did of Oscar Wilde is painted on the words of his prison memoirs entitled 'De Profundis'. One of the things Oscar Wilde mentioned in 'De Profundis' is forgiveness. An excerpt from 'The Portable Oscar Wilde, pg. 604 is: 'When He says, 'Forgive your enemies,' it is

not for the sake of the enemy, but for one's own sake that He says so, and because love is more beautiful than hate. In His own entreaty to the young man, 'Sell all that thou hast and give to the poor,' it is not of the state of the poor that He is thinking but of the soul of the young man, the soul that wealth was marring.'

On the matter of catechesis, the artwork 'Bride of Christ' (image 2 Oil on canvas) may illustrate the point. When I was painting this work I told people the figure was the Bride of Christ and they immediately asked me if I was a nun. This, I assume, is as a result of the television program 'Brides of Christ'. I was able to tell them that I am not a nun but a lay person or married woman and that the 'Bride of Christ' is actually the church.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church para 796 and Compendium 158).



That is one level of explaining the image. Another level is for those who would be aware that 'The Bride of Christ' is the Church but the image is open to a person's own interpretation, as are all the images. My own reflection on the image is that there are two buildings of

churches in the piece which are identical except one is darker in colour (the one in the foreground) than the other (on the horizon). Perhaps the church on the horizon, the lighter coloured one is the ideal which we as Church aspire to. The darker coloured church speaks about our Church's transgressions or failures and this has happened throughout history. However, the point of the image for me is that in spite of all our transgressions, the merciful love of our God endures. The Church, as the Bride of Christ, prevails just as Jesus said it would in Matthew 16:18.

ART FOR EVANGELISATION - Continued.....

The image 'Fear Not...' (image 3 Traditional / digital) is a work which is meant to encourage and possibly heal. The figure in the piece is turned inward, alone and frightened. There seems to be no freedom or hope here. The scripture quotes around the figure speak about the many times our God urges us to 'fear not' and trust in Him. The words of scripture are healing and life giving.



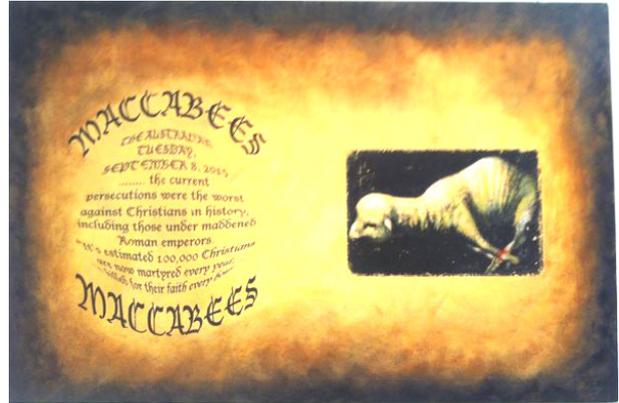
The symbolic piece 'Mass at Home' (image 4 Oil on canvas) has several purposes including catechetical, welcoming and evangelising. The piece shows sheep in a lounge room with a chalice and four books. There are many references in scripture to sheep and here they are symbolic of the Church or faith community. The chalice and the books refer to the Christian liturgy or communal worship. This usually takes place in a church and I would explain to the viewer that this communal worship is called 'The Mass' which means 'to send out'. Placing these objects in a home environment brings to mind the words of the song 'Come as you are' (author Deirdre Browne, Together in Song, hymn 693).



The words of the song include the words 'Come as you are, that's how I want you ... feel quite at home, ... loved and forgiven ... come as you are: Why stand alone.' The setting in a lounge room is in the spirit of being welcomed and loved by God just as you are.

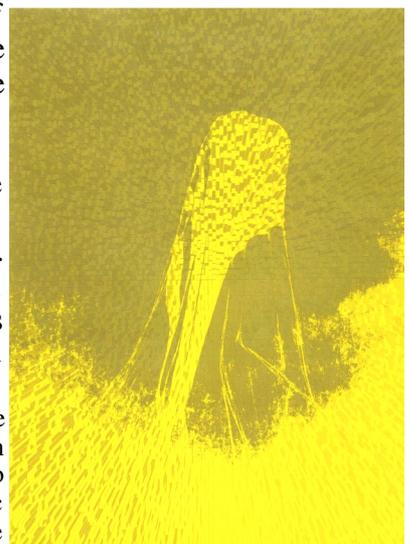
The work 'We are in the Maccabees' (image 5 Mixed media on canvas) is in response to the barbaric slaughter of Christians around the world today. The Book of Maccabees is in the Old Testament of the Catholic Bible and covers the period from 175 BC to 135 BC. It speaks of a time of severe persecution / martyrdom of the Jews because of their faith. Today Christians are being martyred for their faith. The symbol of the lamb is about the slaughter of the innocent and is referring

to Jesus – the spotless lamb of God. The article in 'The Australian' newspaper which is quoted in the artwork, tells us about these persecutions. The parchment-like quality of the piece is meant to speak to the viewer of a time long gone. However, the reality, as the words of 'The Australian' newspaper indicates, is that the time being referred to is today.



The piece '...Full of Grace' (image 6 Traditional/digital) Lk. 1:28, is a Marian piece and is meant to inform the viewer, especially one who is unfamiliar with Marian theology, of what the person of Mary means for Catholics. The image here is of Mary's spirit, a spirit full of Grace. Grace for a Christian is the goodness given to each of us by God. It is not earned but given to each of us as a result of God's 'free and gratuitous choice'. (John Paul II at the General Audience of 8 May 1996).

The abundance of grace in Mary is the reason why she experiences such spiritual richness. Mary is a role model for Catholics. Brother John M. Samaha, S.M., writes that Mary has a privileged position in the Qur'an. (The Virgin Mary in the Qur'an by Brother John M. Samaha, S.M. who belongs to the Pacific Province of the Marianists).



Her name is mentioned frequently, about 45 times we find Mary's name or references to it.

Lucy Lilburne (the author of the above) was one of the original participants in the first English School of Evangelisation course held in 1994 at Burwood, Vic.

STOP PRESS



Carlos Macias de Lara will return to from Italy to
present: **‘Jonah’** in Melbourne
1st & 2nd October 2016

Translation of the course manual has just been completed. ‘Jonah’ promises to offer an exciting, albeit confronting and challenging experience.

Deep sea diving experience will not be a necessary prerequisite!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2016

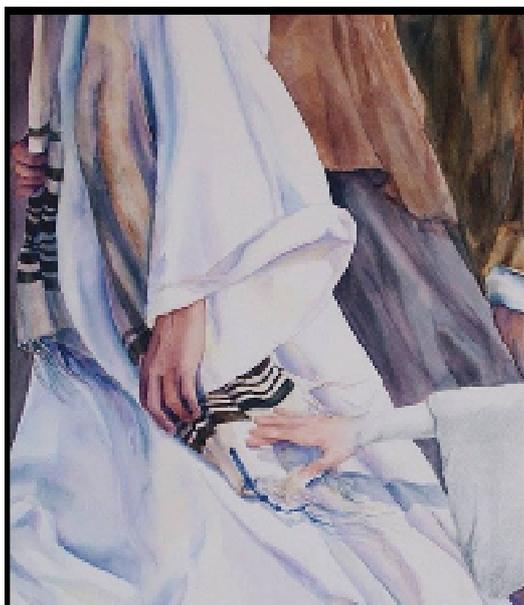
5 th & 6 th March	7 Young People in the Gospels	Mt. Waverley, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
6 th March	Lenten Day of Reflection	Bridgewater, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
12 th —14 th March	“John the Beloved Disciple”	Box Hill North, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
12 th & 13 th March	Weekend of Mercy with MGL priests	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
16 th April	Faith on Fire Seminar “Beatitudes” – Fr Adrian Wee	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
30 th April–1 st May	Joshua	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
18 th May—22 nd June	“Philip- New Life”	St Raphael’s West Preston, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
4 th & 5 th June	“The Fringe of His Garment”	Bendigo, Vic	Denise Ilott 03 5441 1087 0407 506 813
18 th June	Faith on Fire Seminar “Beatitudes” – Fr Adrian Wee	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
9 th & 10 th July	7 Young People in the Gospels	Mt. Waverley, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
13 th & 14 th August	“James”	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
20 th August	Faith on Fire Seminar “Beatitudes” – Fr Adrian Wee	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
2 nd & 3 rd September	“Abraham”	Dulwich, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
1 st & 2 nd October	“JONAH- Arise go to Nineveh” - author Carlos Macia de Lara & team from Italy	Mt. Waverley, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
11 th & 12 th Nov	“The Apocalypse and the New Evangelisation” – author Fr. Donal McIlraith SSC, Fiji Seminary	Mt. Waverley, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
27 th Nov	Celebrate Emmanuel	Rundle Mall Adelaide, SA	Carmen 0419 144 872
TBA	“Moses”	Mt. Waverley, Vic	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339

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

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THE WITNESS



Catholic School of Evangelisation invites you to ...
Reach out and touch

The Fringe of His Garment

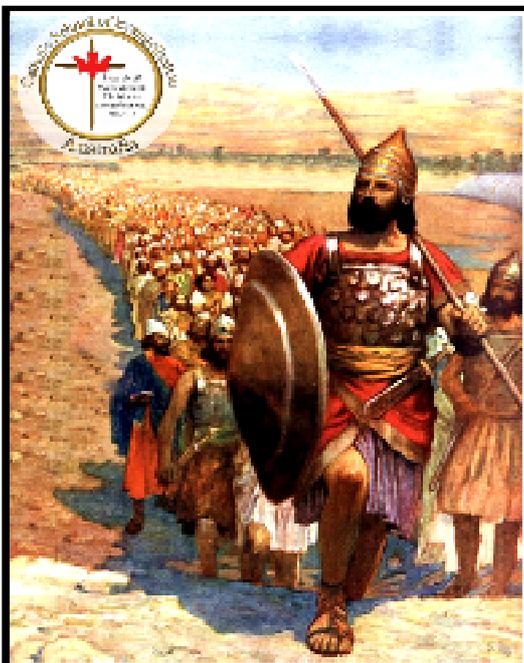
experiencing Jesus' mercy and healing
BENDIGO

8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 June 2016

* REGISTER BY 30th MAY *

Denise Ilott: 03 5441 1087; 0407 508 813



GIDEON'S ARMY

A big THANK YOU to the generous people who have made a financial commitment to assist the ongoing running of the CSOE, without you we would not be able to continue our mission which is our response to the last 4 Popes' call for a New Evangelisation.

**To make arrangements for direct debit or
to forward payments please contact:**

Beata Dawidowska-Gajda, CSOE Treasurer
7 Edgewater Place, BURTON SA 5110
ph: 08 8280 3804

NB change of email address: beatadavidov@gmx.com