



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

November 2017 Newsletter

WAITING UPON THE LORD - ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PEOPLE

By Ann Serong (the new Director for CSOE)

As I sit to write, the two words waiting and acceptance are on my heart. They come as words of consolation and peace amidst the anxiety and confusion that try to unsettle us during this time.

The Eucharistic words “as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Saviour Jesus Christ” tell us how we should be waiting and Mary’s example tells us why – so that Christ can be re-born anew in our hearts. Our waiting is a longing and a yearning to be filled with He who is love and mercy. (Lam 3:22) We cannot be true evangelists, offering God’s love and mercy to others, if we are not being constantly re-filled ourselves.

Last week’s readings from the book of Wisdom provide us with rich fare. They remind us of how we are made in the image of God’s own nature and how He yearns for all His children to be restored. We are encouraged to sing His praises and trust in our deliverer. As our lives change and we witness

more of Christ and less selfishness, our words will become more authentic to family, friends and all those we meet.

Recently Fr. Brendan Lane, our CSOE Melbourne Chaplain, shared of his sadness at seeing so many people, in particular young ones, who seem “lost”. They have such sad and blank faces. They do not know to whom they belong. The need of the world to receive God’s good news has never been greater. We rejoice that we have been asked to play a part in spreading His Kingdom and sharing His love, thus dispelling so much darkness. The one who extends us this invitation is Lord of all.

Our unity of purpose must include an acceptance of His people – of each other. Acceptance is a gift of the Holy Spirit. If we have someone or several people in our lives who annoy and frustrate us, then we can ask the Holy Spirit for more of this gift. I spent a good deal of my earlier years trying to change people who annoyed and

upset me. My frustration, anger and anxiety grew but nothing changed. The Lord taught me that He accepted and loved me just as I was and I needed to do likewise. Tears and some arguing followed but eventually I conceded I could only change myself and pray for others. My life became much more serene and my relationships improved. This does not mean we accept unacceptable behaviour but acknowledges we are responsible only for our own behaviour and are powerless over others. God is the only all-powerful one.

I wish you all God’s choicest Christmas blessings and a huge THANK YOU to all who have worked so hard for the CSOE during 2017. I am grateful for your warm welcome to me and for your patience with my technology deficiencies. A number of courses are in planning stage for 2018 so let us all tune the eyes and ears of our hearts to the agenda of the Holy Spirit.



ADELAIDE CELEBRATES EMMANUEL

More pictures page 2



The Witness

This newsletter is published by the Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc. ABN 133199185 Published three times a year.

Committee of Management:

- Ann Serong - Director
- Carmen Sylvester - Deputy Director
- Janine Witten - Secretary
- Beata Dawidowska-Gajda - Treasurer

- Janine Witten - Editor
- Julianne Hoffard - Publisher

Please direct all correspondence to:

The Director
3 Sloans Road
Warrandyte
Vic 3113
Ph: 0437 127 326

Email: judith.serong@gmail.com

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

www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

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

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

Catholic 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

ADELAIDE CELEBRATES EMMANUEL



Celebrate Emmanuel brings the ministry of the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Adelaide 2017 to a colourful, and joyful end. What a Blessed Day it was. Perfect weather, perfect performances, loads of children and young adults, lots of colour and lots of smiles.

Praise be God for His wonderful providence.
Check it out on Facebook
Blessed Christmas to all.



John the Beloved Disciple - Mill Park, Vic.

By Sandra Bishop



The 'John the Beloved Disciple' course was presented at the Mill Park Parish, Melbourne, Victoria over three Saturdays during August and September. The first day covered aspects of Discipleship, the second: Relationships of a Disciple and the third, Jesus' Pastoral Formation Program.

Responses to the question: In what way have you benefited from doing the course?

- ▶ Given me inner peace to trust God in any situation and the importance of being an apostle in my life.
- ▶ It places the training of evangelisers in clear perspective.
- ▶ I feel affirmed in the training we are giving the Cell leaders.
- ▶ I received some inner healing through the challenges of the 2nd session about relationships.
- ▶ I learnt about discipleship and some of the Jewish rituals.
- ▶ I learnt to put God No.1 and No.1 and always No.1!
- ▶ Forgiveness.
- ▶ Prioritising and in depth understanding of how much God really loves me and loves all of us.
- ▶ Spiritual nurturing.
- ▶ Felt like a retreat, in which I have been spiritually nourished and refreshed.
- ▶ By doing this course it has allowed me to connect and grow more in my faith with the Lord, and to follow the path of the Lord.

- ▶ I learnt more about different aspects of Jesus' time through Scripture use on different topics.
- ▶ The course gave me the opportunity to be closer to Jesus and experience his love for me. I experienced a personal relationship with Jesus.

One of the fruits of the course is expressed by a participant: *"Three weeks after finishing the course, I found myself telling my cell leader that I would like to become a pastoral leader. Before I did the course I never thought about wanting it nor did I ever think of wanting to become a pastoral leader. I attend cells every Wednesday night and I teach catechism on Tuesday's at St Francis. I believe becoming a pastoral leader is what I am meant to do, what the Lord wants me to do. Doing this course has opened that path. God bless you all and thank you."*

Prayer

*I adore the wounds in Thy sacred hands
with sorrow deep and true.*

*May every work of my hands today
be an act of love for you.*

*I adore the wounds in Thy sacred feet
with sorrow deep and true.*

*May every step I take today
be an act of love for you.*

*I adore the wounds in Thy sacred head
with sorrow deep and true.*

*May every thought of mine today
be an act of love for you.*

*I adore the wounds in Thy sacred heart
with sorrow deep and true.*

*May every beat of my heart today
be an act of love for you.*

Supplied by Ann Serong

Eternity with Fr Josy Sebastian SFDS

A Reflection by Steve Lawless.

On Saturday 19th August 2017 the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Adelaide brought us Fr, Josy Sebastian who had us contemplating Eternity.

To be or not to be, is that the question?

Or to remember what Fr Josy asked us on that “day of decision at Dulwich” - When does Eternity start for us? Does it start when we die? Or does it start as soon as we decide to invite Christ, The Anointed One, into our lives?

The main thing I remember from that day was that Eternity is such a long time, compared to our human lives here on Earth ... don't we consider that our '3 score years & ten' are over so quickly when we look back upon our lives! And then ... ? So eternal life can be both surprising AND challenging!

So what is Life? Only the 'Ones' who create life - can supply the answer - As Originator & Source of Life! And conversely, we need to ask: 'What is death?'

We have Jn.3:16-17 to assist us: ***'Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life'*** & v17: ***'God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world: but that, through him the world might be saved'***. Then let's look further into Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, from Jn.17:2-3, namely: ***'through the power you gave him over all people, to bring eternal life to all you have entrusted to him.'***

And v3: ***For this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and the One you sent, Jesus Christ'***.

St Paul was a prolific writer on Eternal Life, as we can see from 1Cor.15:26 ***'the last enemy to be conquered, is death.'*** But then, don't we have immortal souls? Consciously aware of Reward or Punishment?

In Ecc.3:2 we have that beautiful poem: ***'A time & a season for everything' ... "A time for giving birth, a time for dying, a time for planting, a time for uprooting"***, and so on.

Job shares from 14:2 ***'Like a flower he blossoms and withers, fleeting as a shadow and transient'***. And v5: ***'Measured are the days of man; you have decreed the***

number of his months, you have fixed the limit which he cannot pass'.

Also, Gen.2:9-16, from the Yahwist account of Creation, relating the Lord God forming man from dust of the ground and breathing life into his nostrils and becoming a living being. As well as God causing to grow from the ground every kind of tree that is pleasing to see and good to eat. Also the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Then we hear again from St Paul in his treatise to the Rom.5:12 - about Adam and Christ: ***'Now sin entered the world by means of one man & through sin death and in this way death spread to all humankind, because all sinned'***.

In the Letter to the Heb.9:27 - we hear about how we are purchased at such a great price! ***'Just as it is appointed that human beings die once and after that (will) be judged by God!'*** Further in v28: ***'in the same way Christ sacrificed himself once to take away the sins of many and he will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him'***.

St Paul addresses the problem of Original Sin, in Rom.3:23 ***'... because all have sinned and all have fallen short of the glory of God;'***

then v24: ***'all are put right with God freely by his grace through the redemption effected in Christ Jesus.'***

There is so much more we could share, but let us think for a moment about some who have died before us: The Blessed Virgin Mary has no grave anywhere on earth! - Mother Church believes her glorious earthly body was assumed into heaven from where she returns in her glorified body to visit us at apparition sites such as Fatima, Lourdes etc. Then there is St. Padre Pio's incorrupt body, laying in state at St Giovanni Rotondo in Italy, a sure sign of his holiness and strong belief in eternal life!

The teaching was deep and powerful and the hospitality incredible and joyful as you can see by the lovely ladies with a generous smile and warm soup to keep those winter chills away. Willy the musician kept us happily praising God and cheered our hearts just with his joyful smile and heart.

A blessed day indeed!!!



John 6:63 - 'It is the Spirit Who Gives Life'

Reflection by Steve Lawless

Saturday 16th September 2017, at Dulwich with Fr Josy Sebastian.

Fr. Josy invited me to prepare a talk reflecting on some significant events in my life, including our still-born child. In the week leading up to the funeral I was inspired with a handful of readings for that mournful time in our lives.

Some thoughts on the reflection day by members of the team and visitors:

Victor from Melbourne, said: One of the best retreats – Fr Josy's teachings were 'very solid'.

Carmen commented: Reflection on '**Death at Birth**' was touching and how we grieve and bury our dead, if done well, can bring healing, but if done badly, can become a wound holding us back from growth!

Willy shared on what **Is.49:16** meant to him – that phrase touched the hearts of the listeners!

We are in God's thoughts even before we are conceived, e.g. **Ps.139**, from my sharing! Everyone has a different story to tell of how God touches our life and it's our story to salvation!

'Grant us the strength and wisdom to understand Your plan', can be included in our prayer...Thanks you guys for your thoughts.

Jer.29:11 was a significant contribution to our retreat! The Lord has Plans for our future - filled with Hope!

Fr Josy shared how a suicidal lady came to him for counsel around the year 2000: the love she had for a boy had become physical and he was not reciprocating. Her dreams of a beautiful lifetime together had been shattered, when he suddenly changed his affections to another lady! Her pain had led her to think of herself as a 'useless nobody'. 'She felt like crap!' Fr Josy was able to discern that Our Lord had taken that boy away from her... Why is God so cruel?... To free her from this burden, the Truth needed to set her free!

The 'Suffering' of Life can be beyond the comprehension of every human being ... but we have the Promise of **Rom.8:28** to rely upon – 'even everything tragic!' 'I don't understand anything;' 'The burden is too powerful!' 'Falsification – we lose meaning in our life!' Our future becomes bleak and empty! To understand we need to open our hearts to God! So, when I insist things happen according to my plans – am I in control of my Life? Things can go astray?

We also need to pray **Rom. 12:1-2** – 'Let's put on the mind of Christ - to be renewed in Him!'

Do we often feel hopeless and that life is haywire? Well **Jn.16:32-33** says: "*The hour is coming, when you will be scattered, each going his own way...I have told you all this, so that you may have peace...take courage I have overcome the world!*" He is our refuge in times of distress!

When I insist that my Will be done! e.g. when the boy was everything to the young lady and SHE WANTED HIM BACK! It is at those times that we need to nurture our relationship with our God. The young lady had admitted that she was even praying for the new girl in 'her' boy's life to die – so her boy would come back to her!

In **Lk.22:42** – "*Father, if it is your will, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.*" His defeat was then gradually changed to triumph! Only God's plan can bring glory and bliss to my life's existence!

Indeed, Love springs from a deeper source – in **Song of Songs 8:6** – Our Lord places a seal over our hearts, and in **Eph.1:13** St Paul declares, "*You have been ... sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*". Like in olden times, when a slave was bought, they were sealed with the insignia of the Master's House!

So then, when we are born again into Christ we can see ourselves as belonging to the household of God! We have been bought at a price and we all belong to God. So, we can embrace **Rom.8:31** for each one of us: "*if God be for us – who can be against us!*"

Also, we can proclaim **Ps.23**: The Lord is my Shepherd over ourselves, as we have our guarantee of inheritance, as in **Eph.1:14**. (Someone had to die for us to gain our inheritance and what a supreme person died for us, even before we died!)

Then in **2 Cor.5:5** we read that God has indeed given us the first instalment of our inheritance towards Eternal Life: the Promised Holy Spirit who is our down-payment on eternity! So, let's cooperate with God's Holy Spirit as we push on towards the fulfilment of all human desire, in the bliss that only our God can provide!

Later our spiritual director celebrated a delightful Mass, the source and summit of our faith, followed by adoration where we could approach our Lord and Saviour to experience more of that bliss that we had been anticipating, that brought us healing in mind, body and souls.

Praise the Lord what a wonderful experience!



EMMAUS COURSE Broken Bay Diocese

By: Lucy Grasso

On 21st and 22nd of October the Sydney Team of the Catholic School of Evangelisation presented the EMMAUS COURSE at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood. We had the pleasure of being joined by Fr. Paul Finucane, Parish Priest, and Fr. John Pulparambil, (Assist. Priest) together with 40 participants. We would like to share with you Fr. Paul's thoughts of the week-end on the Parish Bulletin:

Fr. Paul's Pen A good number of our parishioners (and some visiting from other parishes) had an experience of encounter with Jesus the Risen Lord in his inspired and revealed Word, in recognising Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharist and through being open to asking for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to enliven and transform their faith and lives. The experience took place in Harrington Hall where 40 people attended the Emmaus Course (Luke 24:13-35). This was presented in a very lively and imaginative way by the Catholic School of Evangelisation. The participants entered actively into the transformative experience the two disciples had on the road to Emmaus, firstly despondent and then overjoyed in recognising Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread.



The Walk to Emmaus Course: The Way to Love and Live the Word of God

By: Margarita Broderick



The Walk to Emmaus Course held on 21st—22nd October at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood, aimed to impart to the participants the importance and relevance of the Word of



God in our relationship with God and in our lives. The Word of God needs to be read and listened to, believed, studied, prayed, lived and presentations that gave us fruitful Effects of the Word and our 7 into a deeper appreciation of the Word were given the opportunity to reflect on companion who journeyed with us



proclaimed. We were provided with insights on the 7 Images of the Word, 7 Commitments to the Word to bring us of God and apply it to our lives. We each session together with our during the course.

The highlight of the Course was the experience of being in the Synagogue Drama with the Old Testament Characters, Teachers and Prophets who foreshadowed the Messiah. The Course concluded with the Emmaus Mass concelebrated by Fr. Paul and Fr. John after which we all shared our testimony, as the two Disciples did when they returned to Jerusalem. We gave witness to how we experienced the risen Jesus through a special verse in the Scriptures that has touched our lives.



Betty Koh leading Bible Study on the Old Testament events which symbolise the Messiah



At the Synagogue with the Characters who resemble the profile of the Messiah



Fr. Paul Finucane & Fr. John Pulparambil concelebrating Emmaus Mass

JAMES - ON DISCERNING By: Lucy Grasso

On the week-end of 26th - 27th August, 2017, the 'James Course' was conducted in Sydney for the first time by a team from CSOE Adelaide, Carmen Sylvester and Hiacinta Msomi. We were led into a 'smorgasbord' of ways to grow in the Art of Discernment with many first hand experiences shared by the presenters challenging us to reflect, evaluate and discern the course of action God is calling us to, for our lives. The Course was attended by 31 participants at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rozelle, with the great support of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre in helping us with administration, advertising and the use of the Parish Hall where normally CCR Events take place.

The Course took us on a journey through the Letter of James, learning how to discern our own lives in the light of the Word of God. We found ourselves facing a very serious and challenging journey, which invited us to a conversion of heart. In the light of the Word of God, we come to realise that many of our religious habits in reality are not very sound. Discernment means to recognise the situation, interpret it, evaluate it and then choosing what to do and how to do it.

The Course presented Formation Concepts to help us understand what the Art of Discernment is. Like any art and skill, Discernment must be

practised and learned through experience. The following sessions were presented:

- ◆ **Introduction: The Art of Discerning.** Discernment is the art of communicating between God and man so as to understand each other and act accordingly.
- ◆ **Letter of James** Author, recipient, message and date of composition.
- ◆ **Discerning when listening to the Word of God.** Three fundamental criteria: Listen, welcome and live the Word of God.
- ◆ **Discerning True Religious Piety.** Identify the criteria of true devoutness and unmask the manifestations of false devoutness.
- ◆ **Discerning Faith.** Learning to discern faith means understanding "true faith". It is expressed and manifested in works and actions.
- ◆ **Discerning the Proper Use of the Tongue.** Learning to discern the good use of language means understanding that the heart is the seat of wisdom. The reflection of what's inside the heart is manifested with the mouth.
- ◆ **Discerning Wisdom.** When learning to discern true wisdom, identifying the fruits is necessary.

Comments by some participants:

- *The in-depth study of the Letter of James made me realise how far I fall short and how important it is for me to change.*
- *I realised I ought to think before I speak and reflect upon my behaviour towards others.*
- *I came to reflect on my faith and if I'm acting in accordance and how should I act as a Catholic, daughter of God. I reflected also about how I judge others and the proper use of the tongue.*
- *Using real life examples by presenters to illustrate and relate to my own experiences.*

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead Works are the fruit of faith
James 2:17

If anyone thinks they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.
James 1:26

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.
James 1:5



Above: The happy participants who gathered for the Discernment course at Rozelle

'Let the little Children come to me.'

. . . . By Carmen Sylvester

Back from 4 weeks of holidaying with my 17 year old granddaughter and spanning 4 countries it was with joy that I landed back in Adelaide safe and sound, with only 3 days before our weekend retreat, 'With the Holy Spirit, Jesus heals our wounds.'

Not so joyous is the jetlag that followed as I needed to put final preparations for a 'Weekend of Blessings' with our special friend from the MGL community in Canberra, Fr Matheus Wuwu.

In spite of jetlag I do not hesitate to say that this weekend we received teachings on Inner Healing that were both profound and simple in their delivery. I also do not hesitate to say that they were the best I have ever heard from the many retreats and seminars I have attended on Inner Healing.

Starting with beautiful Praise & Worship on both days our hearts were open to receive. In my exhaustion I remembered that Jesus had called us to abandon ourselves to him when we feel weak and perhaps having to forcibly sit down and receive at this retreat was the best medicine.

Let the little children come to me said Jesus and Fr Wuwu emphasised over and over that unless we go to Him to be healed of our deepest wounds we will never become whole as God had intended.

One of Father's repeated phrases was that if we don't heal our wounds we will TRANSMIT them to our children, our grandchildren, our relationships etc etc. It will become a vicious circle of generational hurts and wounds. Our attitudes and prejudices, our inclinations to anger, fear, frustrations, intolerances, perfectionism, to name but a few are all due to deep wounds never addressed and never taken to Jesus to be healed.

What we often accept as our little quirks of

being critical of anyone who does not agree with us, anyone who has a different opinion to us and feelings of annoyance at the slightest inconvenience are all signs of unhealed wounds.

It was such a wake-up call to check myself for my inclinations that are not always in line with God's call for me to become perfect as "your heavenly Father is perfect."

Father said if your decision and your desire is to become whole then it is not necessary to fully understand what caused the wounds that make you react to life the way you do, but it is necessary to take them to Jesus and ask Him to heal you. God always honours our desire to be the people he created us to be.

On the other hand if we persist in excusing our actions and we continue to refuse the healing that God constantly offers us it will possibly lead to addictions that will build a wall between us and God.

Watching these children going up for the anointing with open hands unashamedly expecting to receive, made me realise why Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me.*" We too can be those little children always coming to Jesus to be healed over and over until we do become, "Perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

Although Fr. Wuwu will be moving to minister at Smoky Mountain in the Philippines, he left us with some hope that he will come 'through Adelaide' when he visits Australia. Something to look forward to, especially seeing that the consensus was, 'It was an incredible Weekend.' Healings happened and some openly shared about it.

Read about one profound experience below.

Healing Miracle – Father Wu Wu Retreat in Adelaide

On Saturday the 28th and 29th October 2017, I attended a Healing weekend ran by the Catholic School of Evangelisation with guest speaker Father Matheus Wuwu.

In my past I have been haunted by one destructive 'romantic' relationship and I received healing from that on Saturday 28th October 2017.

Prior to getting married in the Year 2000 I had a short but destructive romantic relationship with a young lady that I met in a Catholic prayer group. We were on the path to marriage when the lady concerned decided that there was one aspect about my past that she did not like. She terminated the relationship, divulged confidentialities and then

proceeded to blackmail me.

Consequently, for the past 18 years, I have lived in fear about what she might do to me! A saying from Humphrey Bogart's film Casablanca now comes to mind "**Of all the Gin Joints in all the World she walks into mine.**"

The lady concerned miraculously attended the retreat on Saturday 28th October 2017, (she arrived just before the conclusion of the Saturday afternoon session) we spoke and we reconciled.

The fear is gone after 18 years of suffering!
PRAISED BE THE NAME OF JESUS.

(Name supplied)

Fr. Matheus Wuwu & Inner Healing.

By Steve Lawless

On Sat 28th & Sun 29th October 2017 about 36 people gathered at Dulwich to reflect and absorb words of wisdom and humble acts of love and compassion from this great man of God. A good number returned on the Sunday, plus a few more turned up, due to the word of mouth spread about Fr. Wuwu and his reputation for effective healing at his hand. Our music group, capably led by Willy, drew us into peace and joy in the Holy Spirit that helped us to be receptive to the message being shared.

I would encapsulate the weekend with an action he worked, when an older lady cried out for healing from him during one of his talks, just before Mass on the Saturday. Fr. Wuwu responded in love and took pity on the lady as did our Saviour on so many who came to Him. She received prayer for her needs and we were all then readied for the wonderful outpouring of healing that is evident at his hands.

As Fr Wuwu invited us all to extend our hands of healing towards her, I was enthused to sing the chorus, "Something beautiful, something good, All my confusion He understood, All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife, But He made something beautiful of my life!" Maybe that said it

so poignantly. We came seeking wholeness and holiness, aware of our deep need for more healing of our minds, bodies and spirits.

Fr. Wuwu facilitated his ministry with Mass, Adoration and anointing with oil. We were receptive and hungry for the peace that passes all understanding and more of God's life in us, that emanated from our holy priest. It helped us realise how much richness is in that man and each other as we minister in Jesus' Name. On the first day with Mass and Monstrance and on Sunday with blessed oil and great faith he broke through our personal barriers allowing liberation in the depths of our souls. Bringing us to greater peace and wholeness in our daily lives!

We prayed over Fr. Wuwu at the end, feeling the power still emanating from him, after so much prayer and compassion for so many. Our farewell was bitter/sweet, hearing how he was being sent to minister at Smoky Mountain in Manila in the Philippines in 2018 a long way from the minus-zero nights of the Canberra winters!

May we continue to pray for the health and healing of all in our lives, as it helps build up the Kingdom of God.

SR. NELIA'S CSOE ECHO AT IMUS

What a joy to receive a WhatsApp call from Sr. Nelia Llanto SJBP in the Philippines and hear her say, "We are echoing the courses you presented here. True to our mission and vision of the formation of the total person in the Spirit of Jesus the Good Shepherd, we're offering the formation course entitled '7 Young People in the Gospels' at Imus."

Sr. Nelia brought a group of students and teachers to Australia last September for an 'Australian Immersion'. Sr. Nelia, the facilitator/formator is assisted by teachers Miss Wency Provido and Miss Riffy Medalla, and the 2017 Immersion delegates are the recipients of the first echoed course which began Friday 17th November and will be continued on the following schedule: 24th November. 4.00—7.00pm; 8th, 14th & 15th December 4.00—7.00pm. Please keep them in your prayers that they, in turn, may be equipped to echo the course to others.



The name of the group is JGSS MAGIS, named following their immersion experience. JGSS is reference to their 'Jesus Good Shepherd School'. When Sr. Nelia was working at Loyola College she formed a MAGIS group. Magis (Latin for more or better) refers to the Ignatian philosophy of doing more, for Christ, and therefore doing more for others, thus forming the ideal society centered on Jesus Christ.

Thank God for Sr. Nelia. She first participated in a '7 Young People in the Gospels' course in July 2016, promoted and facilitated one in Watsonia December 2016, then returned to live in the Philippines and where she immediately promoted the CSOE. This resulted in the seven courses we presented in three dioceses in July 2017 and now she is working on number ten. Stay tuned, there's bound to be more.

Sandra Bishop

The following is a reflection from one of the inspiring young seminarians we met when in the Philippines, it was too late for the last issue.

“Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

Jesus’ invitation to follow Him and to become fishers of men is addressed to His first disciples namely Simon Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John the sons of Zebedee. He chose these simple folk, unknown people, ordinary fishermen to be His pioneer disciples who later on were sent to proclaim Jesus’ Good News to all nations. Jesus does not focus on their outer appearances but He looks intently on the position of their hearts. Jesus was attracted to the fire within the hearts of His first disciples. The fire which is burning in the hearts of His disciples is the fire of service for God’s Kingdom. This powerful invitation of our Lord Jesus Christ still echoes and extends to the people of the new era.

John, known as the beloved disciple and who belongs to the inner circle of Jesus Christ, shows his great love to his master by courageously staying with the suffering servant of God, standing beneath the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. St. John the beloved shows to us the perfect way of discipleship which is the intimate relationship with the Master, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Undergoing the seminar on John the Beloved Discipleship Formation recalls me to the sweet invitation of Jesus Christ, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Discipleship is about the interaction of the master (teacher) and his disciples (students). Jesus’ discipleship is the vocation of love and mission for the Kingdom of God.

The seminar invited me to look again at my own vocation story. I was drawn back to the moment I responded to Jesus’ invitation of discipleship. With the different sessions and workshops which composed the entire seminar, it made me reflect on the words **Y.E.S.** to Jesus our Lord. The first point to reflect on my “YES” to Jesus is **recognizing and accepting YOUR OWN HUMANITY**. The seminar gives us the opportunity to look at our very own humanity. It revolves with the image of the self, giftedness of the self, the relationships with our neighbors, the value of forgiveness, etc. The response to discipleship is founded on the humanity of the person. We move and act according to the nature in which God has created us.

The second point is **get in touch with your ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS**. As discipleship is rooted on the humanity of the person, it follows the building of rapport with the master who is Jesus Christ. It emphasizes the relationship with Jesus Christ. The disciples in the company of their

master, strengthen their relationship with Jesus with all their different experiences with Him such as the healing of the sick, driving out demons, feeding of the five thousand men, walking on the water, calming of the storm in the sea, etc. The disciples have experienced the Lord both Body and Soul. They have witnessed the epiphany of the face of the Father through Jesus Christ. How did God manifest Himself to me in my everyday life? How do I recognize His presence? How deep is my relation to Jesus Christ?



Lastly, the third point is **remember that you are SENT FOR MISSION**. The final end of discipleship is carrying out the mission. The fulfillment of discipleship is to bring God’s Good News of salvation to the world. After the three-year stay of Jesus with His disciples, He commissioned them before he ascended to heaven. *Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* From their status as disciples of Jesus, later they became apostles whose mission was to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission delegated to the apostles is to proclaim the faith in Jesus Christ, to bring hope for the coming of the Kingdom, and to spread the insurmountable love and mercy of God to all the peoples.

Our response to Jesus, our simple “YES” to the call of discipleship should remind us of: **(YOUR) OUR OWN HUMANITY, ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS, and SENT FOR MISSION.**

Sem. Jhedediah Lavarias. Philippines

Touched by God

Aside from being the bedrock document of both Christian and Jewish faith, the Bible makes for great literature—filled with sweeping epics, unforgettable characters and the gamut of human experience and emotion.

One of the more poetic images is that of ‘the finger of God’, which is used in the Book of Exodus to indicate the means by which the Ten Commandments were written on the stone tablets given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus uses the phrase in reference to the power to cast out a demon. The image suggests that the smallest part of God is mighty enough to accomplish great things. Imagine what even a small amount of God can accomplish in your own life!

Luke 11:14-23. “If it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2018

10 th – 12 th March	“John the Beloved Disciple”	St Mary’s Church Dandenong.Vic	For 5% discount BOOK at https://www.trybooking.com/TALN Promo Code: WITNESS
5 th – 6 th May	“The Fringe of His Garment”	St Clare’s Hall Box Hill North	For 10% discount BOOK at https://www.trybooking.com/TEBY Promo Code: WITNESS
22 nd – 23 rd Sept	“Elijah”	St Clare’s Hall Box Hill North	For 10% discount BOOK at https://www.trybooking.com/TEEB Promo Code: WITNESS

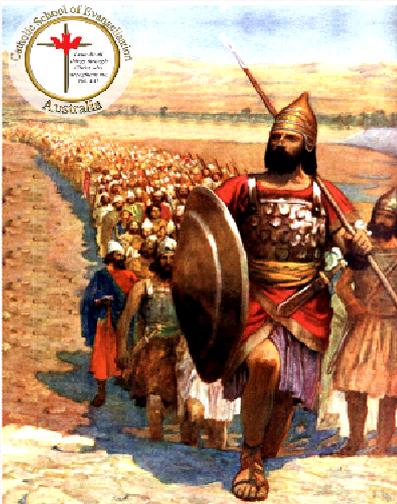
Attention! Attention!

Like our new Facebook page. Join our community and keep in touch with other Catholic School of Evangelisation graduates.

Thanks to Joanna Lamek, the CSOE Facebook site is up and running so -

Find us on facebook:

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



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: beatagajda@internode.on.net

please ENROL me in GIDEON’S ARMY

please RENEW my GIDEON’S ARMY commitment

NAME			
ADDRESS			
EMAIL			
PHONE			
<i>payment enclosed</i>	\$	Please forward details to make arrangements for monthly direct debit payments	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please make cheques payable to: Catholic School of Evangelisation)

Catholic School of Evangelisation
3 Sloans Road
Warrandyte
Vic 3113
Ph: 0437 127 326

THE WITNESS

ELIJAH



MY LORD AND MY GOD
I REMAIN
IN YOUR PRESENCE

ELIJAH debut Melbourne 22nd—23rd September 2018

International speaker, Carlos Macia de Lara, the author of the course, will return to Melbourne to present Elijah.

By following the story of the prophet Elijah, seeing our life reflected in his adventures and his troubles, we will be able to grasp our vocation as servants and witnesses of God.

Venue: St Clare's Hall, Box Hill North

Time: 9am-5pm

Book at: <https://www.trybooking.com/TEEB>
use Promo Code WITNESS to receive a 10% discount.

The EUCHARIST

~ Source and Summit of Our Life ~

The Eucharist course was presented at Eltham, Victoria over 6 weeks, July to September. It was the fourth time I have been involved in presenting the course this year, and always I hear similar comments: "The teachers in our Catholic schools need to participate in this course." "Weekly Mass goers could benefit greatly from this course." "Wow, I never knew that..."

The course of 6 sessions can be presented complete in one day, or as was the case at Eltham, a session a week for 6 weeks.

The process seeking a Nihil obstat and Imprimatur for the *Eucharist* course manual began last June. I am happy to report that Nihil obstat has been granted 28th November 2017.

