Welcome to Light and Life!

It is with pleasure that we welcome you to the first edition of Light and Life. This newsletter is designed for the catechist looking for stimulation in her or his apostolate, whether that be through sharing inspiring stories with other catechists, gaining fresh insight into contemporary youth culture, praying an uplifting prayer, settling a nagging theological problem, or sinking his or her intellectual teeth into some number-crunching facts and statistics - starting with the CCD statistics for 2006.

We hope that you, the catechists, will send us your anecdotes! What have you seen or heard in your work that you would love to share? Help us to put good news and a good laugh on Page Two, while we return the favour with inspiring prayers and lives of the saints.

Do you have any niggling queries about a point of Catholic teaching or history, or a Catholic custom? Send us your question, which will be printed on Page 3, together with its answer. Please email your contributions to Mary Carolan on mary.carolan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au, or send them to us with your Faith Education Officer.

Did you know that almost 20 million 12 to 17-year olds visit YouTube each month? What is YouTube? A regular column, ‘The Google Generation’ will enable catechists to discover the amazing realm of worldwide youth cyber-culture. Stay on Page 3 to discover the places that are second-nature, and the first source of education and entertainment, to Australian children from Primary School upwards.

Of course, we will also include news about events in the Sydney Diocese which will be of interest to catechists! Turn to Page 4 to find out what’s happening around the Archdiocese of Sydney.

We hope you enjoy this first installment of Light and Life, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mary Carolan
Lucy O’Connell

Editors’ Welcome

2006 Statistics

Following are the number of students and catechists in the Archdiocese of Sydney by area, and the number of schools in which catechists have a presence, out of the total number of schools available. The majority of primary schools are catered for in all areas; however, the percentage of High Schools with a catechist presence is very low. Sutherland-St George Area has the best record with just over half the Secondary Schools in that area covered.

Western Area:
Primary Students: 6682        Secondary Students: 704
Total: 7386                  Catechists: 402

Bankstown Area:
Primary Students: 4395        Secondary Students: 141
Total: 4536                  Catechists: 355

(continued on page 4…)

Contents

Editors’ Welcome 1
Feature: 2006 Statistics 1
Catechists’ Stories 2
Prayer and Saints 2
Questions and Answers 3
The Google Generation 3
Around the Diocese 4
Vital Statistics 4
Catechists’ Stories...

Send in your Faith Question to:

General Manager
Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
Archdiocese of Sydney
Level 6,
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

or via email on
robert@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

A Day in the Life of a Saint ....

St. Patrick of Ireland, born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, in Scotland, 387; died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, 17 March, 461.

Right: St Patrick carrying a staff

Monthly Feast Days ....

7 March—St Perpetua & St Felicity
8 March—St John of God
9 March—St Frances of Rome
17 March—St Patrick
19 March—St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
23 March—St Turibius de Mongrovejo
26 The Annunciation of the Lord
One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports. While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web...
**Around the Diocese this month...**

- March 10 — March 19: St Joseph’s Parish, Croydon, will be hosting over a week’s worth of events in honour of St Joseph. The celebration begins with the Annual St Joseph’s barbeque, on March 10, and concludes on March 19 with a traditional Lebanese Maronite meal, both following the 6pm Mass. All are invited to these events. In between, the parish hosts prayer services, Masses and expos, featuring the works of the parish groups. They would love to welcome you to any or all of these events, to experience Maronite Liturgy, Maronite hospitality, and to celebrate the patronage of St Joseph. Call the Parish Office on XYZ for more details.

---

**Vital Statistics**

(...continued from page 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Area:</th>
<th>Concord Area:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Students: 2892</td>
<td>Primary Students: 4503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Students: 328</td>
<td>Secondary Students: 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 3220</td>
<td>Total: 4803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catechists: 249</td>
<td>Catechists: 321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sutherland-St George Area:</th>
<th>Overall Totals:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Students: 4793</td>
<td>Primary students: 23,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Students: 1140</td>
<td>Secondary students: 2,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Schools: 43</td>
<td>Special students: 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 5976</td>
<td>Over-all Total: 25,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catechists: 317</td>
<td>Total catechists: 1,644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Presence:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary: 87/300</td>
<td>Primary: 284 [2005]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary: 29/96</td>
<td>Secondary: 30 [2005]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special: 3/12</td>
<td>Special: 2 [2005]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---