BEHOLD THE CROSS...

Visit www.wyd2008.org/
Welcome to another busy and exciting Term three! The CCD welcomes two new editions to the ranks of the catechist apostolate in Carolyn Mary Elias (daughter of Josephine and George Elias) and Joseph John Greige (son of Maree and Joseph Greige). We wish both sets of parents all the very best and may God’s Blessing come upon both families.

Term two began with the Catechist Gathering in May where around 100 catechists attended a fantastic presentation by Mr. John Burland and Br. Julian Quinlan. The feedback from the gathering was extremely positive and catechists took many ideas from the two interactive and entertaining presentations - certainly useful resources for the classroom.

Mr Anthony Cleary, Director of Religious Education and Evangelisation, CEO, continues to open doors for resources to be utilised within the catechist field. I for one am grateful that the CCD and the CEO can work together in providing support, resources and assistance to our 2000 catechists across the Archdiocese of Sydney.

In the past two years the CCD has been provided with invaluable support from Ms. Sue Moffat, CEO; Ms. Mary Chlorin, CEO; Mr. John Burland, CEO and various curriculum experts who have proofread, provided feedback and suggested alterations to the Christ Our Light And Life curriculum program. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Anthony Cleary and his team at the CEO. We hope to continue this solid working relationship for the future.

Throughout the months of May and June, the Faith Education team celebrated and gave gratitude across the Archdiocese of Sydney through the Area Masses. What a wonderful way to show our appreciation! We also acknowledged our ever supportive Parish Priests whom without their motivation, leadership and spiritual guidance our catechists would lose hope and struggle in this apostolate. Thank you to all host parishes for the Area Mass and the luncheon that followed and I had the privilege of attending most of the Area Masses.

The month of May also saw the holding of the ICCEROIS conference at Parramatta Riverside Theatre. I and three of the FEO’s, Mary Carolan, Teresa Culjak and Ruth Sheridan attended. It is always useful to learn from and continue to engage with other denominations.

With the ‘Christ Our Light And Life’ curriculum in its first year, we at the CCD do not shy away from some or any issues which are being or maybe encountered by catechists in the field. On the 31 May at the hospitalable facilities of the Dooley’s Catholic Club Lidcombe, the CCD Sydney along with Parramatta CCD hosted a forum on the new program. This was an opportunity for catechists from the Archdiocese of the Sydney and the Diocese of Parramatta to discuss, make recommendations and air their grievances.

It is always important to place things in perspective as with anything new there will be teething problems and the purpose of the day was intended to begin the process of ironing out these problems.

A number of catechists who were interviewed gave an overall positive feedback on the program. It is reassuring to know that the program is on track to provide a comprehensive Religious Education to our Catholic children and their families in Public Schools, as they are the future of the Catholic church.

A number of items have been documented and plans are now in place to address in time for next print in 2008. The CCD would like to thank all those who contributed to the forum and its success, especially Mr Paul Worthington, CCD Director, Parramatta Diocese and his team and to Miss Marie Doubay, Regional Coordinator, Wollongong CCD, for her participation and to all the catechists, coordinators, Faith Education Officers, my Executive Assistant Therese Touma for organising and doing a great job in taking the minutes of the day and to the Regional Coordinators of the Parramatta Diocese.

One of the most exciting times that lie ahead of the Church in Australia is the greatest and largest youth event in the world today—World Youth Day 2008.

Part of the CCD’s attempt to reach out and spread the word has been a number of World Youth Day presentations at High School and Upper-Primary School aged children. Teresa Culjak Western Area,
FEO has headed these presentations along with support from Mary Carolan, City Area, FEO.

The feedback, enthusiasm and awareness has been tremendous and in some cases overwhelming.

The public school arena houses some 70,000 Catholic children which represents 44% of the Catholic school children population in the Archdiocese of Sydney. The CCD only reaches around 30,000 of these with some 6000 high school students. Therefore a mission like ours is vital in reaching and inviting these children and their families who may be distant from the church.

Today’s generation and more specifically Generation Y are embracing the need for concreteness and tradition better than the last two generations.

Today’s generation and more specifically Generation Y are embracing the need for concreteness and tradition better than the last two generations.

We will continue to spread the word on WYD 2008 right up until the World Youth Day celebrations in July 15-20, 2008.

We will continue to spread the word on WYD 2008 right up until the World Youth Day celebrations in July 15-20, 2008.

I ask that all Coordinators attend the coming Coordinator Meetings in July as this is a great opportunity to share information. At the meeting the 2007 Statistics will be distributed. The deadline for the 2007 Statistics will be September 30.

WYD Showbag content items.

We will continue to spread the word on WYD 2008 right up until the World Youth Day celebrations in July 15-20, 2008.

We will continue to spread the word on WYD 2008 right up until the World Youth Day celebrations in July 15-20, 2008.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

Along with the presentations, students receive a piety and information showbag.

Along with the presentations, students receive a piety and information showbag.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

Long with the presentations, students receive a piety and information showbag.

Long with the presentations, students receive a piety and information showbag.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I wish you all a fruitful Term three and I offer you all an invitation to contact myself to discuss any matter.

I would like to thank Teresa and Mary as well as the 50 or so volunteers from the Merryland and Ashbury Parishes who have given their time and effort to make over 1000 Rosary Beads. May God reward you all for continuing and agreeing to spread God’s word to all nations.
Welcome to Term Three.

In Josephine’s absence, I have had the privilege of attending a couple of cluster meetings and meeting most of the Coordinators in the Bankstown Area. A great indicator of how an Area is progressing is when the main manager or coordinator and in this case the Faith Education Officer is away. I am pleased to highlight that the Bankstown Area is in great condition and this is a reflection of the fantastic rapport that Josephine Elias had with her area coordinators and catechists.

The Area Mass on a wet and wild winter’s day was attended by around 100+ catechists. To brave the weather was a tremendous commitment on the part of those who attended. A sincere thanks to Barbara Martin, Coordinator of Earlwood and to Father Colin Mason, Parish Priest of Earlwood for agreeing to put on a successful Area Mass. We were very graced with the musical talents of Mr. John Burland and Mrs. Suzanna Barlows as well as the singing prowess of the catechist choir.

Without a FEO, I will be the care-taker of the Bansktown Area until a replacement is announced within the next few weeks. I will be conducting a Basic Accreditation Course as well as a Spiritual Retreat Day in October and an Inservice on the COLAL program which is scheduled for November.

I would like to thank Josephine for an outstanding job in her area and wish her, George her husband and baby Carolyn Mary Elias all the very best for the future. We look forward to seeing her in the middle to end of 2008 or sometime beyond that date.

Throughout Term 3 with the support of the Korean Community at Silverwater I have managed to arrange for two intensive courses in the Intermediate Accreditation Program as well as the Advanced Accreditation Program. (See page 17). The intensive courses will run on Saturdays and will continue for 6 consecutive Saturdays.

I have also arranged for a Spirituality Day at St Christopher’s Parish, Friday 7 December so please keep this date free. (See page 17).

Caroline Mary Elias being dressed for her Baptism

George, Josephine and baby Caroline posing beautifully for the camera
Dear Catechists,

Greetings to all as we embark on the real count down to WYD! The excitement is infectious. By the time you receive this we will have celebrated the arrival of the Cross and Icon. The preparation for us at CCD has included the distribution of specially made CCD show bags. I have had the pleasure of visiting two High Schools so far to give a short overview of what to expect at WYD and hand out the show bags. The bags include information and piety items for all the students and have been very well received.

In Term Two I had the very enjoyable experience of presenting a Catechist Ministry Certificate course on the Spiritual and Educational Development of Children. This topic provides a great wealth of food for thought and I have continued my learning by looking even more closely at the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. To this end I attended a workshop in Brisbane with a world renowned expert in the area of early childhood, Dr Silvana Montanaro. I highly recommended reading the works of Dr Montanaro, Gianna Gobbi and Sofia Cavaletti. I hope to share some of their wisdom in the next few editions of ‘Light and Life’, our monthly newsletter.

In July and August the CCD is running two intensive accreditation courses. This is an excellent way to receive your accreditation over two to four days. The courses will be held on a Saturday. In Terms Three and Four I would like to run an Intermediate and Advanced Course for the City Area catechists and am happy to run them as intensives or over 6 weeks. There will also be a day to explain the new curriculum held at Marrickville on Monday 30 July.

Please keep August 15 - free for our Area Retreat Day. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to gather and prepare spiritually for our annual Mass, WYD, and the hustle and bustle of last term. The day will have a Marian theme and also incorporate the theme for World Youth Day “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes…”

Important Dates for your diary:

An Intermediate Accreditation Course will be held at Marrickville on Fridays 10am – 2pm July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

Curriculum Inservice Day will be held Monday July 30 at Marrickville. Br Julian Quinlan will present Advent and Christmas lessons which will give us plenty of time to prepare for both Advent and Christmas. Preparations need to be started in Term Three to be completed by Term Four.

Retreat Day will be held August 15 at St Michael’s Parish Daceyville 10am - 2pm.

Annual Catechist Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral on Sunday September 16 at 2pm hosted by City Area catechists.

Mary Carolan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: mary.carolan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
A warm welcome to Term three to all catechists in the Concord area! The year is moving ahead very quickly and the upcoming terms look to be the busiest of the year. We have our Annual Mass in September with a number of our catechists up for awards, as well as our second catechist gathering at Lidcombe in October. These gatherings are always a great opportunity for catechists from all over Sydney to come together and learn about different methods of teaching or resources available to us as catechists. Our last gathering saw the CCD hosting singer/songwriter John Burland and Br Julian Quinlan and the feedback on both presentations was very positive.

I will also be running an inservice program on the Christ Our Light and Life curriculum on Monday 24 September at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, North Ryde. This will begin at 10am and finish around 1pm. I would encourage catechists to bring a plate of food so that we can have a light lunch afterwards and enjoy each other’s company. The purpose of the inservice will be to give catechists the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the curriculum and how to use it effectively in the classroom.

Another day to put in your diaries is our annual Catechist Retreat Day. This will be held in Term four on a date yet to be decided. The guest speakers for the day are yet to be announced, but all catechists will be notified closer to the date with these details. The retreat will be a wonderful chance for catechists to prayerfully reflect on their ministry and to grow in God’s grace.

Two accreditation courses will be run in Terms three and Four. The Advanced Accreditation Course will be running on Fridays August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde; there will also be a Basic Accreditation Intensive running on Monday October 22 and Monday October 29 at St Michael’s Parish Hall, Lane Cove. The intensive mode is suitable for people who usually cannot make the six consecutive weeks of the regular mode, but who are nonetheless able to set aside two whole days to attend the course. The Basic Course will begin at 9am and finish at 3pm on both Mondays.

Of interest to any catechists who have completed the Advanced Accreditation Course recently might be the Catechist Ministry Certificate unit I will be running in August. The topic is Saint Paul, his life and his letters. It will be a great chance for catechists to delve a little bit more deeply into the New Testament and learn some fascinating facts about this great saint of the Church. The course is running at the Polding Centre and starts August 6.

Finally I want to thank all catechists who attended our annual Area Mass at All Hallows, Five Dock at the end of June. It was a wonderful Mass with a strong attendance and some very tasty food afterwards. My thanks goes out especially to Fr Bob Hayes who celebrated the Mass and to Linda Palamara and the Catechist Coordination Team at Five Dock. A lot of effort and preparation went into the Mass on the part of our Five Dock coordinators and it paid off very well.

It really is such a blessing to be teaching the children about our Catholic faith. I find the work just as rewarding as it is challenging. As the year goes by I’ve developed a close bond with my small students and am happy when I see them smiling at me and saying, “yeah! Scripture!” as soon as I turn up at school. One of my little students comes out with some profound insights, and last week was an example of that. We were discussing the meaning of baptism and this little boy put up his hand and said, “Miss Sheridan, baptism means we become part of God’s family.” At times like that I think that all the hard work and the task of disciplining unruly behaviour is well worth it.

Ruth Sheridan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122  Fax 9283 5146
Email: ruth.sheridan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Welcome to Term Three.

The Area Mass was once again well attended. Thank you to Corrine and the ‘choir’ for the music, and to Fr Kelvin, Mary and the Miranda catechists for overall organisation, and to the wonderful catechists and priests who attended. Hopefully I will see many of you at the Annual Catechist Mass on the September 16.

This year we have six seminarians teaching our Catholic students at Wooloware High School, St George Girls High School and Caringbah High School. The high school catechists have been very impressed by these young men and report that the students have sometimes spontaneously applauded at the end of a lesson.

We are now half way through the year and into a long stretch of Ordinary Time. Often people express a worry about being ordinary. ‘I am just an ordinary Mum’. However one of my favourite definitions of a saint is someone who does the ordinary in an extraordinary way. So I would encourage you to do what you can do in the time available as well as possible.

The liturgical colour for this season is green. Green is the colour of life and growth – the greening of our lawns after long awaited rain is a welcome sight and soon we will be looking for the first green shoots of the spring flowers.

The Big Books should be in high demand this term.

Kindergarten students will hear about The Good Shepherd, The Lost Sheep and The Loaves and Fishes.

Stage 1 students will hear about Joseph and his Brothers, Moses and the Burning Bush and perhaps some of the Kingdom parables – The Mustard Seed and The Treasure and the Pearl. They will also hear how Jesus cared for people – The Ten Lepers

Stage 2 students will hear about The Good Samaritan, The Poor Widow and Zacchaeus.

Some dates for diaries this term:

- Our Area Coordinators Meeting will be held at Miranda CCD Centre on Monday July 23, 10 – 1pm.
- All catechists are encouraged to attend the Annual Catechist Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral on Sunday September 16 at 2pm.
- This term the Intermediate Accreditation Course will be held on Fridays at Miranda CCD office starting on July 27. Please feel free to do this as a refreshers course if you have the time available.

Denise Humphreys
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9524 6400
e-mail: denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Greetings to all in the Western Area!

Welcome to Term three. These past few months have seen a lot of exciting events including our Annual Mass held in May. I’d like to thank the team at St Gertrude’s (Fr Albert Wasniowski, Mimi Romeo and all the Catechists) who outdid themselves in their hospitality and organisation of the day. The outcome of their hard work and dedication resulted in many people commenting on the glorious Mass, with the angelic choir, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Some Catechists were touched by the Lord in a special way and they felt the power of His love.

At the conclusion of Mass, we continued the celebrations with lunch. There was much chatting and catching up with old and new faces, whilst enjoying the different varieties of food.

In the past few months I have been able to witness the fruits and benefits of the Accreditation Courses. I encourage all Catechists to attend and/or complete these courses which will assist you in your confidence and effectiveness in the classroom whilst also giving a deeper understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith.

I understand for some it may be difficult to attend the courses due to work commitments or specific obligations during the day. Hopefully, I will be able to assist by presenting in Term three, the Basic Accreditation Course on Monday Evenings at John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bonnyrigg. (For more details, see page 17).

To our dear Catechists, thank you for your ‘yes’ and continued dedication in “populating heaven”. Our mission would not be possible without your service and commitment.

To our beloved Priests, thank you for your witness, support and guidance in this field of evangelisation. May the Lord continue to uphold and strengthen you in all your works.

In September, I will be attending the International Congress for the New Evangelisation (ICNE) in Budapest, Hungary. I will also be visiting Poland, the home of JPll, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, and the Shrine of Our lady of Jasna Gora. I will carry you in my heart and pray for you, at each of these holy places. During this time, if you have any enquiries or difficulties please contact Robert Milan on 9390 5122.

Teresa Culjak
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9724 9024 Fax: 9724 9069
Email: teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Below are some of the key elements and principles behind the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The approach of this method of catechesis is invaluable to catechists, parents and anyone who has the privilege of dealing with young children.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children 3 to 12 years of age was inspired by the work of Maria Montessori and originated in Rome in 1954. It has spread to many countries of the world. The particular themes of the Christian message that are carefully chosen and presented, draw a joyful response from children. This response is similar for every child at the same developmental stage, regardless of differing cultural backgrounds.

The catechesis is not primarily academic, rather it seeks to provide the environment in which the child encounters the person of Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Those who have developed the approach have observed children closely and discovered that they are already in relationship with God. Thus it is simply up to the catechist to provide the right environment for the child to grow in this relationship. The role of the catechist becomes one of service to the child. “Help me come closer to God by myself” is the cry of the child. The child and catechist discover a shared religious experience, fulfilling the gospel teaching “unless you become as little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (Mt 18:3) Sofia Cavalletti, one of the main founders of the catechesis writes “If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage...seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him.”

The themes presented are taken from the Bible and the liturgy (prayers and sacraments) as the fundamental sources for creating and sustaining Christian life. The purpose is not so much to teach the child about God or the liturgy or the sacraments, but to introduce the child to God through the scriptures, prayers of the liturgy and the sacraments. It is about building a relationship.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd starts with children from the age of three years and takes place in a carefully prepared room called an atrium. The environment and materials are specially designed to meet the vital needs of the child. Every work the child does in the atrium becomes a passage to prayer or a prayer itself. Although a catechist or a parent cannot provide this exact environment, some of the following principles can be used in the school classroom or at home.

The first thing is recognizing the essential characteristics of children at each of the developmental stages. For example the child aged three to six years exhibits the following:

Needs love, care and protection.
Needs movement.
Loves language and experiments with, and learns language very easily at this age. The child loves order. Has a desire for independence. Is tactile, sensorial, concrete. He/she does not understand abstract ideas for example the car in front is going faster because it is ahead of us. The child needs and likes repetition as the mind is slowly absorbing information. The child has a great capacity for joy and wonder as everything is new to them. The prayers they express are full of praise and thanksgiving. They have no inclination to express prayers of petition yet. They have an ability to understand the essentiality of things for example the Incarnation. They can concentrate for long periods of time on one thing and need and enjoy silence.

Keeping these characteristics of the child in mind, it is important for the adult to consider the following. Avoid over-stimulation as this will lead to boredom or indifference. Things need to be expressed simply and limited to the essential. Pay attention to detail using slow deliberate actions that the child can imitate and which in turn builds respect, order and reverence. We as adults often may need to slow down to offer the gift of silence and time to just be. Present only small chunks of information using few words and separate actions from words so that a child can concentrate on either listening or watching. Limit their experiences and language to allow them to fully absorb the new information. Honour the child’s need for repetition as a sign of absorption and concentration. The child will naturally move on to the next task or level of learning once they feel confident with the task at hand. By respecting the child’s choices and needs we allow their whole mind, body and spirit to become absorbed in a task that meets their particular need at the time. It is counter productive to hassle or force a child to move on to another task if the child is not ready or has not fully grasped the last one. Listen to their questions and responses with respect. Answer questions with more questions to encourage wonder. Encourage and respect all that has come from the child.

The parable of the Good Shepherd underpins all that is needed by the child and adult at all stages of development. The child aged three to six is in a sensitive period for protection. The image of the Shepherd who calls each sheep by name and seeks the lost, resonates with the child. By age six to nine years the child is beginning to develop a sense of justice and morality hence the Good Shepherd who forgives, seeks and finds the lost, becomes essential. By age nine to twelve and early adolescence the child has entered the sensitive period for heroism. The Good Shepherd now becomes the hero to imitate.

Mary Carolan
Faith Education Officer– City
World Youth Day Update

World Youth Day (WYD) is a difficult journey. I myself having been to two previous WYD’s can give witness to sleeping on floors and in shopping centres, flight delays, food shortages, long queues,…. So, why do the young people come in such large numbers and travel across expensive seas?

Today, many are the voices that speak of a joy that can be had with money, success and power. Mostly they propose a joy that comes with the superficial and fleeting pleasure of the senses. WYD is not the “what” it’s the “who”. Young people come in search of that interior longing, the search for the answers to the ultimate question, “Lord, to whom shall we go”. Only Christ speaks the words that stand the test of time and remain for all eternity, only he can satisfy the yearnings of our heart. With the joy of the universal Church from around the world, Pope Benedict XVI, festivals, concerts, dramas, serving the poor, Catechesis, private prayer, international Mass with 500,000 people, Reconciliation, all of which allow for an encounter with Christ – young people find the answers to their questions.

The above is part of my presentation which has been given to Catholic Students in public schools and different communities to promote WYD.

These presentations are aimed at High School students, which are now happening on a weekly basis throughout the Archdiocese of Sydney. The presentations are met with excitement and enthusiasm. In a secular school assembly, the whispers behind me were – “Did you know that I am Catholic?”, “Yeah, me too!” A new burst of pride and witness to the Catholic Faith.

We have put together WYD Show bags to be given to each student who participates in the presentation. Each bag contains: Information on WYD, a postcard, a bookmark, “How to pray the Rosary” booklet, a specially made Rosary Bead, a Miraculous medal, Way of the Cross including examination of Conscience.

Margaret Tisch and I at Warrawee public school after a WYD presentation

It is imperative that each young person is aware of this once in a life time event in Sydney that will change their lives and allow for an encounter with the living Christ. This event will touch the lives of many young people as it did at the last WYD in Cologne, Germany where 80 new youth groups were started. If you would like to book a WYD Presentation at your local high school, please contact myself on (02) 9390 5122.

Teresa Culjak
Faith Education Officer- Western Area

Massive Crowds at the Eucharistic Procession

Some thousands of people walked, prayed and sung together during the annual Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday 10 June. As a marshal, I found the procession to be “a beautiful and deep experience of God’s love and unity. It was so encouraging to see so many young people come and express such a keen interest in the Eucharistic procession.

The procession was led by Bishop Julian Porteous carrying the monstrance containing the Host. Alongside the Procession, there were many volunteers evangelising and handing out booklets about the Catholic faith. However, due to the wet weather, there weren’t as many families present as in the previous years. Even so, I was inspired by the display of faith by those who participated in the procession. It concluded wonderfully at Hyde Park with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemn Benediction led by His Eminence George Cardinal Pell.

In Vatican City, June 10 on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Pope Benedict XVI recommended the practice of Eucharistic Adoration as a crucial time for interior silence and recollection with our Blessed Lord. After praying the Holy Angelus he said the following “I invite priests to encourage youth groups in this, but also to accompany them to ensure that the forms of adoration are appropriate and dignified, with sufficient times for silence and listening to the word of God.”

He continued: "In life today, which is often noisy and scattered, it is more important than ever to recover the capacity for interior silence and recollection: Eucharistic adoration permits one to do this not only within one’s 'I' but rather in the company of that 'You' full of love who is Jesus Christ, the God who is near us.' "May the Virgin Mary, Eucharistic Woman, lead us into the secret of true adoration. Her heart, humble and silent, was always recollected around the mystery of Jesus, in whom she worshipped the presence of God and his redemptive love."

Therese Touma
ICCORIES Report – Mary Carolan

The ICCORIES conference held at Parramatta on 18 May was a very useful day for catechists. Expert guest speakers spoke on a range of topics pertinent to the teachers of all denominations who provide SRE in state schools. One of the most practical workshops in the afternoon was on the topic of Engaging Children. Below are some points made by the presenter Deborah Wagner from Scripture Union Queensland.

Thoughts to consider-
Children will remember YOU long after your content…

The child that is the hardest to love is the CHILD in need of most love…

Children don’t care about what you KNOW, until they know that you CARE…

You represent the God you are talking about.

Why is the integrity you display so important?
“People at first don’t follow worthy causes. They follow worthy leaders who promote worthwhile causes. People buy into the leader first, then they buy into the vision” – John Maxwell

How does the attitude of Christ towards children compare with the attitude of society?
We need to cherish children as Jesus did. Show them UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

Before entering the classroom
Think of some boundaries that you would like to have from your children prior to teaching your subject or commencing a task. List five limit setting consequences that could be effective for you in your role.

Remember that the teacher has the right to assistance with discipline problems. Have you discussed your strategies/policies with your teacher, co-ordinator or principal? Dress conservatively, plain colours are more authoritative and professional oriented. Make a list of at least 5 ways of praising good work, things you could say that acknowledge and encourage good work (being on task). Reflect on your teaching and make a list of things to avoid doing, e.g. correcting with negative messages or giving conditional praise.

During the lesson
Avoid “please” – say “thanks” in a crisp tone. Avoid saying “Don’t” as you set them a challenge! Use the students names when asking a question or addressing them. Perfect the art of storytelling. Adopt teacher language for the classroom. Ensure you are understood. Give clear, short, logical instructions. Give instructions in a soft voice. Match words with actions. We can encourage ‘tune out’ (lack of attention) if we talk too much. Allow time for processing.

Cueing with Parallel Acknowledgement – Praising to make a point
This skill prompts other students to match the behaviour that is being acknowledged. It is an alternative to a re-direction. Scan the group regularly, acknowledge someone who is on-task – to affect those who are off task. When student is on task give low key acknowledgement, eg “well done” said in a quiet voice to the student personally. Avoid being stationary. Children become attuned to personal body language. Our language should be one of encouragement. Move close and get down to the students level before addressing them personally.

The teacher must know how to systematically reinforce the appropriate behaviour of students through descriptive encouraging. This is harder than it appears. List five ways to encourage your students to produce the positives we want to see more often. e.g. “that is very good work.” “I like your drawing etc.” Always find some aspect of the child’s work or behaviour you can praise. Never say your work is not good enough. Give praise as a free genuine gift.

Selective attending – Ignoring some behaviour can be used when a student is not seriously disturbing others. Do not turn your back on this student. If they do not return to task, move to choice and follow through strategies, to underpin their behaviour. Giving a choice removes your responsibility. Do it to avoid misbehaviour from escalating.

List 5 consequences you feel comfortable with, to encourage students to respond and make better choices. Follow through – Doing what you said you would! This establishes that you mean what you say. Shows skill and control. Reinforces and re-establishes the boundaries, gains respect, encourages trust in you and your management. Avoid lectures and threats. Always attempt lighter corrections first.

Diffusing: Talking it through with the student and implement individual policies. Use words to create reactions, refer to rules regularly and model them. When a child is not behaving use courtesy, change tone of voice, ask the child to tell you what they are doing, challenge them to think. Affirm their good behaviour or good intention to behave and walk away. By leaving them you show you trust them to respond and do what is expected.

Catechist Newsletter Term Three 2007
Catholic Education Office In-services

In-service on Lectio Divina

Catholic Education Office, Sydney and John Garratt Publishing are pleased to present the Lectio Divina method of reading and praying scripture by Dennis Kurtz, regional recipient of the 2004 National Youth Ministry Award sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Lectio divina, an ancient practice of reading and reflecting on the word of God, helps us come into union with God. It is in the Scriptures that we can come to listen to and hear the voice of God in our lives today. The process of lectio divina is very different from the speed reading we apply to newspapers and books. Lectio divina employs a style of reverential reading and listening. We gently listen to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us today.

Youth Engaging Scripture: Diving into the Sunday Gospels is a tool to assist in the ongoing desire of having Catholic youth fall in love more deeply with the word of God. Having teens dive in and explore the Sunday Gospels by using the reflections in this book will lead them to a more profound appreciation of the depth and breadth of the Scriptures. Because the Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ, reflecting on them can help young people think like Christ.

In-service on Contraception in the Modern Catholic Marriage

Prof Janet Smith presents compelling evidence that couples who accept children as a gift from God and who use natural family planning if needed, have happier marriages with dramatically lower divorce rates than the general population.

Our culture believes that contraception is one of the greatest inventions of the late twentieth century. Promoters of contraception argued that it would decrease unwed pregnancy and abortion and improve marriages. Prof Janet Smith will illustrate that such has not happened and will explain why the Church argues that contraception diminishes the total self-giving that is of the essence of marriage. She will explain why natural family planning (NFP) is not the same as contraception and why couples using NFP report great benefits to their marriage and why they rarely divorce.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Tuesday, 24 July 2007</th>
<th>or</th>
<th>Wednesday, 25 July 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>9.00 am – 4.00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00 am – 4.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue:</td>
<td>Catholic Education Office, Sydney</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic Education Office, Eastern Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38 Renwick Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>33 Banks Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leichhardt NSW 2040</td>
<td></td>
<td>Daceyville NSW 2031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A method for Diving into the Scriptures:

Using a modified process of lectio divina is helpful to maximize these reflections on the Sunday Gospels. Lectio divina, an ancient practice of reading and reflecting on the word of God, helps us come into union with God. It is in the Scriptures that we can come to listen to and hear the voice of God in our lives today. The process of lectio divina is very different from the speed reading we apply to newspapers and books. Lectio divina employs a style of reverential reading and listening. We gently listen to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us today.

Youth Engaging Scripture: Diving into the Sunday Gospels is a tool to assist in the ongoing desire of having Catholic youth fall in love more deeply with the word of God. Having teens dive in and explore the Sunday Gospels by using the reflections in this book will lead them to a more profound appreciation of the depth and breadth of the Scriptures. Because the Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ, reflecting on them can help young people think like Christ.

In-service on Contraception in the Modern Catholic Marriage

Prof Janet Smith presents compelling evidence that couples who accept children as a gift from God and who use natural family planning if needed, have happier marriages with dramatically lower divorce rates than the general population.

Our culture believes that contraception is one of the greatest inventions of the late twentieth century. Promoters of contraception argued that it would decrease unwed pregnancy and abortion and improve marriages. Prof Janet Smith will illustrate that such has not happened and will explain why the Church argues that contraception diminishes the total self-giving that is of the essence of marriage. She will explain why natural family planning (NFP) is not the same as contraception and why couples using NFP report great benefits to their marriage and why they rarely divorce.
I can follow Jesus by:

+ 
+ 
+ 

In the Bible Jesus tells us that to follow him we must take up our cross, that is we have to make small sacrifices or to put up with things that might annoy us. What are some of the crosses that you carry?


In 1984 Pope John Paul II gave a special Cross to the young people of the world. At World Youth Day in Rome in 1999 the Pope reminded them “I gave to you a great wooden Cross, asking to carry it across the world as a sign of the love which Jesus has for everyone. Since that day, carried by generous hands and hearts, the Cross has made a long journey across the world.

Today the Cross is the most popular religious symbol in the entire world. Hundreds of millions of people wear a Cross in some form. The Cross of Jesus can be seen everywhere: in churches, in schools, in cemeteries. The Cross is a symbol of love.

What does the Cross mean to you?
Across

1. Which Pope started World Youth Day? ____________
7. In which City was World Youth Day held in the Year 2000? ______
11. The Stations of the Cross will be re-enacted through the streets of Sydney on which day? ___________
13. Young people experience a ____________ journey at World Youth Day.
16. In which country was the first international World Youth Day held? __________
17. The event is not a holiday it is a ___________________.
18. Young people from all over the world come together to share their ____________.
19. The highlight of World Youth 2008 is the ____________ ____________ with the Holy Father.

Down

1, 4 & 9. The World Youth Day theme is “You will receive ____________ when the ____________ has come upon you and you will be my ____________.”
5. On what day is the annual World Youth Day held? __________
2. The important person who will come to World Youth Day is the ____________.
3. What month will World Youth 2008 be held in? _______
5. World Youth Day is the ____________ youth event in the world.
8. By registering on line through the website www.wyd08.org you become an ____________.
10. What will commence its journey throughout Australia in July 2007? _______ and _______
12. The purpose of World Youth Day is for young people to encounter who? __________
15. Where was the biggest gathering of humanity in the history of the world involving of over 4 million people? __________
DIARY DATES

Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering
Monday
October 15 2007
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe

From 10:30am to 1:30pm

Annual Catechist Mass
Sunday September 16
St Mary’s Cathedral
2pm

CHRIST OUR LIGHT AND LIFE INSERVICE- TERM 3

City Area- July 30
St Brigid’s Catholic Church
392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville
Monday 10am to 1pm

Concord Area- September 24
Holy Spirit Parish Hall, North Ryde
Monday 10am to 1pm

Sutherland/St George Area- September 14
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
Friday 10am to 1pm

Western Area- August 24
St Francis Xavier’s Catholic Church
71 Webster Road, Lurnea
Friday 10am to 1pm

Bankstown Area Coordinator’s meeting
Polding Centre Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
30 July 10am to 12 noon

City Area Coordinator’s meeting
Polding Centre Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
16 July 10am to 12 noon

Concord Area Coordinator’s meeting
Holy Spirit Parish Hall, North Ryde
27 July 10am to 12 noon

Sutherland—St George Area Coordinator’s meeting
CCD Centre Kiora Road, Miranda
23 July 10am to 12 noon

Western Area Coordinator’s meeting
All Saints Parish
George Street, Liverpool
20 July 10am to 12 noon

Life Members’ Mass & Luncheon
Friday November 23 2007
Mass 10:30am
St Joachim’s Lidcombe
Luncheon 12 noon
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe

Further details will be sent to all Life Member Award recipients and Parish Catechist Coordinators early in Term Four.

Easter and Advent Workshop with Brother Julian Quinlan- Western Area
Monday 13 August 10am to 12 noon
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish,
230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard
Catechist Newsletter Term Three 2007

**Schedule of Offerings 2007**

**Catechist Ministry Certificate**

**Term Three**

**Paul (Formerly known as “The Letters of Saint Paul”)**
- MI03
- Polding Centre
- 133 Liverpool Street Sydney
- Mondays, 10am to 1pm
- August 6, 13, 20, 27 September 3

**Teaching and Learning Strategies**
- MI14
- CCD Miranda
- 50 Kiora Road Miranda
- Mondays, 10am to 1pm
- July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27

**Catholics in History**
- MI13
- CCD Office, Hoxton Park
- 21 Twentieth Ave Hoxton Park
- Tuesday and Wednesday, 9am to 2pm
- October 2, 3

**Term Four**

**The Eucharist (Formerly known as “The Year of the Eucharist”)**
- MI19
- CCD Office, Hoxton Park
- 21 Twentieth Ave Hoxton Park
- Wednesday & Thursday, 10am to 3pm
- November 14, 15

**The Fathers of the Church**
- MI10
- CCD Office, Hoxton Park
- 21 Twentieth Ave Hoxton Park
- Monday & Tuesday, 10am to 3pm
- December 10 & 11

**NB:** Catechist Ministry Courses require a minimum of 10 students to run.

**Bookings two weeks in advance essential.**

**Advanced Accreditation**

**Term Three**

**Concord Area**
- Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde
- Fridays: 9.30am-1.30pm
- Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Bankstown Area**
- St Christopher’s Parish, 233 Tower Street, Panania
- Fridays: 9.30am-1.30pm
- Oct 19, 26, Nov 9, 16, 23, 30

**City Area**
- St Michael’s Parish, 29 Banks Avenue, Daceyville
- Fridays: 10am-1pm
- Oct 21, 26 Nov 2, 9, 16

**Term Four**

**Sutherland–St George Area**
- CCD Centre
- 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
- Fridays: 10am to 2pm
- Oct 19, 26, Nov 9, 16, 30, Dec 7

**Western Area**
- Good Shepherd Parish, 21 Twentieth Street, Hoxton Park
- Mondays: 10am-2pm
- Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 Dec 3

NB: Catechist Ministry Courses require a minimum of 10 students to run.

Bookings two weeks in advance essential.
ACCREDITATION COURSES

Basic Accreditation

**Term Three**

**Western Area**
John the Baptist Parish Hall,
Mount Street, Bonnyrigg
**Monday Evenings:** 6.30pm to 9.30pm
July 23, 30 Aug 6, 13, 20, 27

**Term Four**

**Sutherland–St George Area**
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
**Mondays:** 10am to 2pm
Oct 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec 3

**Concord Area**
**Basic Accreditation—Intensive**
St Michael’s Parish Hall, Lane Cove
**Mondays:** 9am to 3pm
Oct 22, 29

Intermediate Accreditation

**Term Three**

**Bankstown Area**
St Christopher’s Parish, 233 Tower Street, Panania
**Fridays:** 9.30am to 1.30pm
July 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 24

**City Area**
St Brigid’s Catholic Church
392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville
**Fridays:** 10am to 2pm

**Sutherland-St George Area**
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
**Fridays:** 10am to 1pm
July 27, Aug 3, 10, 17, 14, 31, Sept 7

**Term Four**

**Western Area**
Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish,
230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard
**Wednesdays:** 10am to 1pm
Oct 17, 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 Dec 5

Spirituality Days

**City Area— 15 August**
**Wednesday 10am to 2pm**
St Michael’s Parish Daceyville
(including Mass and Marian Devotion)
*Please bring a plate for Lunch!*

**Bankstown Area— 7 December**
**Friday 9am to 2pm**
St Christopher’s Parish,
233 Tower Street, Panania
(including Mass and reflection)

**Term two Crossword Solution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Original Sin</td>
<td>1. Obedient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Seven</td>
<td>2. Assumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Scapular</td>
<td>4. New Eve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Fatima</td>
<td>7. Anne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Theotokos</td>
<td>8. Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Miraculous Medal</td>
<td>9. Lourdes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Annunciation</td>
<td>12. Guadalupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14. Regina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HIGH SCHOOL CATECHISTS**

**SECONDARY WORKSHOP**

**TERM 3**

**Sutherland-St George Area**
CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
**Thursday 10am to 1pm**
September 27
BOOK REVIEWS

“Benedict and the Search for Truth”

When Pope Benedict XVI’s first Encyclical letter Deus Caritas Est came out, many were astonished. The choice of the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to write on the them of love flew in the face of critics’ characterisation of him as a hardliner. In fact it represents the logical culmination of all that Joseph Ratzinger has been writing about for decades.

By Robert Tilley
ISBN 9781921032264
RRP $ 29.95

“Jesus of Nazareth”

In this bold, momentous work, The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI -In his first book written as Benedict XVI - seeks to salvage the person of Jesus from recent ‘popular’ depictions and to restore Jesus’ true identify as discovered in the Gospels.

By Pope Benedict IXV
ISBN 9780747592785
RRP $ 39.95

SYDNEY CATHOLIC BOOKS & RESOURCES
Polding Centre,
Level 6, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

PO Box A286, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235
www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au Email: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Tel: (02) 9390 5130 Fax: (02) 9283 5146

Opening Hours 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday
You may find the following information useful if you are teaching Kindergarten and Stage 1A (Year 1 and 2 this year)

**Light Blue Books — Kindergarten and above**

**The Last Supper**
1. Washing the Feet Kindergarten Lesson 35
2. Take and Eat Kindergarten Lesson 12

**The Easter Story**
1. From Death to New Life Kindergarten Lesson 8
2. Jesus is Alive Kindergarten Lessons 9 and 11

**The Good Shepherd**
1. The Good Shepherd Kindergarten Lesson 22
2. Lost and Found Kindergarten Lesson 23

**Old Testament Stories**
1. Noah and the Ark Kindergarten Lesson 34; Year 1 lesson 18
2. Abraham and Sarah

**Jonah**
1. Jonah Kindergarten Lesson 33; Year 1 lesson 18

**Red Books - Stage 1a (Year 1) and above**

**Holy Week And Easter**
1. Remember Me Year 1 lesson 17
2. From Death to New Life Year 1 lessons 8 and 9
3. Alleluia! Jesus is Alive Year 1 lessons 9 and 10

**Ascension and Pentecost**
1. Jesus returns to his Father Year 1 lesson 11 and Year 4 lesson 10
2. The Spirit Comes Year 1 lesson 12 and Year 4 Lesson 11

**Joseph The Dreamer**
1. Joseph and His Coat Year 1 lesson 19
2. Joseph and His Brothers Year 1 lesson 20

**Parables for the Kingdom**
1. The Mustard Seed Year 1 Lesson 35
2. The Treasure and the Pearl Year 1 Lesson 25 and 34

**Jesus Cares for People**
1. The Ten Lepers Year 1 Lesson 26
2. Feeding the Five Thousand Kindergarten Lesson 21

**The Dark Blue Book**

**Moses**
1. Baby Moses Year 1 lesson 21
2. The Burning Bush Year 1 Lesson 22
REFLECTION ON THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY
FEAST DAY 15 AUGUST

Scripture does not speak of the Assumption of Mary but the Holy Spirit who guides the Church is truly the guarantor of this truth which was proposed to us for our belief in 1950 as a Dogma of Faith. It teaches us that Mary was taken up into Heaven both with her body and soul. When we speak of her being assumed ‘body and soul’ we refer to her whole person. The human being is a unity. The Assumption is an expression of our faith that the whole human person is saved by Christ.

The body of Mary could not know corruption; not a moment could pass between the end of her life on earth and the beginning of her glorious life in heaven. Mary was God’s unique choice to bring forth Jesus into the world and for this, predestined her to be immaculately preserved from all stain of sin. Only one, who was spotless herself, could fulfill such an exalted role.

Through her body, Mary was elevated to a place on high that no creature would ever be able to displace. She thus became the Mother of God, and favoured daughter of the Father. Long before time began, the Father loved Mary and gave her the glory, which she now possesses forever in her body and soul.

What does the Assumption mean to us?

In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians” (CCC966)

Mary’s Assumption is the assurance and proof that as her children, we will one day be in our glorified bodies beside the glorious Christ. By reflecting on Mary’s Assumption, we can keep our eyes on the ultimate goal of our lives, which is heaven. Faith in the Assumption grew as a reflection on the Resurrection of Jesus and our own resurrection, both of which are strongly attested to in Scripture and lie at the heart of our Christian faith.

The Assumption is a consequence of Christ’s Resurrection and is implied in the Scriptural teaching on our resurrection. We see in Mary, the first fruits of Christ’s Resurrection, a foretaste of our own. We see in Mary a ‘type’, a picture of what Christ’s grace does to each of us at the beginning of our Christian journey—our being ‘graced’ in Christ without any merit of our own, and our entire self being saved at the end of this journey on earth.

Surely, it is more than just a dogma of our faith; it is meant to assist us in our journey of faith. It helps us to contemplate with happiness and joy, the goal of our pilgrimage. The Assumption is a feast of Hope, an assurance of victory over death. Our body will age and decay, but God's love will triumph and our body will be assumed.

Mary continues to assist the Church through her prayers. When suffering and pain of the Church on Earth is visible and obvious, Mary assumed into the glory of her Son is the comforting sign of solace and consolation. She reminds us on Earth that she who is now enjoying heavenly glory and peace, is the same woman who on Calvary, participated in the redemptive suffering and pain of her Son.

Mary is in heaven. However, she is still among us, singing the praises of God with us... Could a mother forget her children? Mary is the mother of God, the mother of Jesus, but she is also the mother of us all. Mary is still with us because we are the body of Christ, but a Mystical Body, a body of glory. In this Glory, in this communion of saints, all of us with Mary make up the one Body of Christ. Mary in glory, with both her body and soul, watches over the gathering together in unity of all her children in the one Body of Christ.

Sister Gerard rjm