By command of our Lord, the major-domo had again laid out the table, ... Peter and John went... to get the chalice which they had brought from Seraphia's house, ... They carried it between them as if they had been carrying a tabernacle, and placed it on the table before Jesus...

In earlier times, it had been the practice for all at table to eat of the same loaf and drink of the same cup at the end of the meal, thereby to express their friendship and brotherly love, and to welcome and bid farewell to each other....

On the day of the Last Supper, Jesus raised this custom... to the dignity of the holiest of sacraments. Jesus was seated between Peter and John, the doors were closed...When the chalice was taken out of its covering, Jesus prayed, and spoke to his Apostles with the utmost solemnity. I saw him giving them an explanation of the Supper, and of the entire ceremony...

...John and Peter poured some water on his hands, which he held over the plate ... then he took a little of the water which had been poured on his hands, ... and poured it on theirs. After this, the vase was passed round the table, and all the Apostles washed their hands in it.

Meanwhile, our Divine Lord became more and more tender and loving in his demeanour; he told his Apostles that he was about to give them all that he had, namely, his entire self, and he looked as though perfectly transformed by love. I saw him becoming transparent, until he resembled a luminous shadow. He broke the bread into several pieces, ... At the moment when he was doing this, I seemed to see the Blessed Virgin receiving the Holy Sacrament in a spiritual manner, although she was not present in the supper-room. I do not know how it was done, but I thought I saw her enter without touching the ground, and come before our Lord to receive the Holy Eucharist; after which I saw her no more.

Again he prayed and taught; his words came forth from his lips like fire and light, and entered into each of the Apostles, with the exception of Judas. He took the paten with the pieces of bread and said: 'Take and eat; this is my Body which is given for you.' He stretched forth his right hand as if to bless, and, whilst he did so, a brilliant light came from him, his words were luminous, the bread entered the mouths of the Apostles as a brilliant substance, and light seemed to penetrate and surround them all, Judas alone remaining dark.  Continued on page three

Reflection on the Institution of the Eucharist
Taken from the writings of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824) Mystic, stigmatist, visionary, and prophet.
'The Dolourous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ' page 84-88

Do you have a faith question, a teaching suggestion, or an amusing anecdote that you would like to share with other catechists?

Do you know anyone interested in becoming a catechist?

Contact Mary Carolan at mary.carolan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
PO Box A286, Sydney South, NSW 1235

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From the Catechists:

Thank you to all those catechists who have made submissions for the CCD publication which will be published to commemorate 50 years of operation of the CCD in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Here is one little inspiring extract from a catechist in Mascot.

‘A third grade student was puzzled by Jesus statement “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst”’ To help the student believe this the catechist asked the children to open the windows and then asked them to catch the wind as it blew in. Of course the children could not catch the wind although they certainly could feel it. The catechist then explained that “Just as you felt the wind but could not catch it, Jesus is in our midst even though we can not see Him.” From that moment the student was convinced.’

A Saint’s Day

Feast Days

March
17 St Patrick
19 St Joseph
25 The Annunciation (celebrated on 31st March this year after the Easter Octave)

April
4 St Isidore of Seville
16 St Bernadette Soubirous
21 St Anselm
22 St Adalbert of Prague
23 St George
25 St Mark
27 St Louis Mary de Montfont
28 St Peter Chanel

April
29 St Catherine of Sienna
30 St Pius V

May
1 St Joseph the Worker
2 St Athanasius
3 Sts Philip and James
9 St Catherine of Bologna
10 Bl Damien of Molokai
13 Our Lady of Fatima
14 St Matthias

In the Words of Pope Benedict XVI...

On Religious Vocations
"What characterizes these new forms of consecrated life is a shared desire [...] for a radical form of evangelical poverty, for faithful love of the Church, and for generous dedication to the needy with particular attention to that spiritual poverty which so markedly characterizes the modern age."

"It is interesting to note," he said, "that those institutes that have conserved and chosen a state of life that is often austere and faithful to the Gospel lived 'sine glossa' have a wealth of vocations."

On St Augustine
"We need a permanent conversion. Up to the end we need to demonstrate a humility that acknowledges that we are sinners on a journey, until the Lord gives us his hand and leads us to eternal life. It is with this attitude of humility that Augustine lived out his final days until his death."

"Mankind needs to know and to live this fundamental reality: God is love and meeting him is the only answer to the fears of the human heart."

"In a beautiful text Saint Augustine defines prayer as an expression of desire, and affirms that God answers by moving our hearts closer to him. For our part we should purify our desires and our hopes in order to receive God's gentleness."

"In fact, this alone -- opening ourselves up to others -- can save us."
Jesus presented the bread first to Peter, next to John and then to Judas. Judas was thus the third who received the Adorable Sacrament, but the words of our Lord appeared to turn aside from the mouth of the traitor, and come back to their Divine Author. Jesus said to him: 'That which thou dost, do quickly.' He then administered the Blessed Sacrament to the other Apostles.

Jesus raised the chalice...and pronounced the words of consecration. Whilst doing so, he appeared wholly transfigured, as it were transparent, and as though entirely passing into what he was going to give his Apostles. He made Peter and John drink from the chalice he held in his hand, and then placed it again on the table. John poured the Divine Blood from the chalice into the smaller glasses, and Peter presented them to the Apostles, I think, that Judas also partook of the chalice; he did not return to his place, but immediately left the supper-room,...He left without praying or making any thanksgiving, and hence you may perceive how sinful it is to neglect returning thanks either after receiving our daily food, or after partaking of the Life-Giving Bread of Angels. During the entire meal, I had seen a frightful little figure, with one foot like a dried bone, remaining close to Judas, but when he had reached the door, I beheld three devils pressing round him; one entered into his mouth, the second urged him on, and the third preceded him. It was night, and they seemed to be lighting him, whilst he hurried onward like a madman.

There was an indescribable solemnity and order in all the actions of Jesus during the institution of the Holy Eucharist, and his every movement was most majestic. Several times during the ceremonies the apostles bowed to each other, in the same way that our priests do.

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**Teaching little children to pray**

1. It is essential that we be people of prayer ourselves. Establish a daily prayer time of at least 15 minutes a day. For small children to relate to Jesus in a natural way they need to understand that he is close to them. Surround them with reminders of His presence -pictures, statues, Christian music.

2. Teach children both rote and spontaneous prayer. Learning the prayers of the church by rote is very important even if the child does not fully understand the words yet. Spontaneous prayer is equally important and when we see the faith of children it can teach us adults how to trust.

3. Laying on of hands may be done very simply yet has a great power in unleashing the healing love of Jesus. A small child may want us to pray over a sore finger for example.

4. Another beautiful way to share prayer is to give a blessing. A parent may trace the cross on a child's forehead at bedtime and allow the child to do the same. This is a simple and profound way of claiming our children for Christ.

5. Observe the liturgical traditions such as preparing an advent wreath, praying a novena together. Say a decade of the rosary each day as a family.

6. Teach little ones to offer up their sufferings to Jesus. Let them become familiar with the crucifix. Explain that offering to God our hurts together with Jesus is a form of prayer. Entrust your family [class] to Mary. Ask her to wrap her mantle of protection about you as you pass through this life and keep you always close to the heart of her Son, Jesus. She will be a mother to us all and will lead us to prayer.

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**Inspiration for all...**

Saint Casimir is the Patron Saint of Lithuania, Poland and Russia. He chose a life of celibacy and asceticism. He died at the age of twenty-six from tuberculosis, on March 4, 1484. When in 1604 his tomb was opened for translation to the church that Sigismund III built in his name, his body was found to be fresh and whole. He was holding this prayer to the Virgin in his hands:

*Every day, O my soul, pay your respects to Mary, make her feasts solemn and celebrate her brilliant virtues; contemplate and admire her elevation; proclaim her blessedness both as Mother and Virgin; honor her so that she delivers you from the weight of your sins; invoke her so as not to be driven by the torrent of passion; I do not know if anybody can honor Our Lady worthily Yet he who keeps silent in her praises is senseless; Everyone should exalt and love her in a special way, and never cease to cherish and pray to her; O Mary, the honor and glory of all women, You who God has raised above all creatures; O Virgin of Mercy, hear the prayers of those who never stop praising you; and never cease to cherish and pray to her; O Mary, the honor and glory of all women, You who God has raised above all creatures; O Virgin of Mercy, hear the prayers of those who never stop praising you; Purify those who are guilty and make them worthy of heaven; Hail, O holy Virgin, through whom the gates of heaven were opened to undeserving souls You, who, the old serpent's snares never managed to seduce; you repair and console despairing souls Preserve us from the evils that will fall on the wicked; Obtain perpetual peace for me, and save me from the misfortune of the flames of Gehenna; Obtain for me to be chaste and modest, gentle, kind, sober, pious, prudent, upright and the enemy of all falsehood; Grant me meekness, love of harmony and purity; Make me strong and constant on the path of righteousness.*
Catechist Ministry Certificate:
N.B courses require a minimum of 10 students to run. Bookings are required two weeks in advance

Ministry (MC05) Robert Milan
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm
March 25,26,27

Controversies in Church History (MI22) Robert Haddad
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Thursday & Friday 9am to 2pm
April 17, 18

Church: Universal & Local (MC06) Robert Milan
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 2.30pm
April 22, 23, 24

The Place of Sacred Scripture in the Roman Catholic Tradition (MC01) Denise Humphreys
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiorda Road Miranda
Thursdays, 10am to 1pm
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

The Gospel According to John (MI09) Ruth Fernandes
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Mondays 10am to 1pm
May 5,12,19,26, June 2

The Catechism (MI20) Mary Carolan
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Fridays 10am to 2pm
May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6

The Easter to Pentecost workshop with Brother Julian Quinlan at Miranda CCD has been rescheduled for
Monday March 31
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High-school Inservice Thursday 10 April
Venue: CCD Centre, 50 Kiorda Road Miranda
10am to 1pm

Curriculum Inservice
Special Guests: Sue Moffat (CEO) & Br Julian Quinlan
Friday April 4
St Declan’s Parish, Penshurst
10am to 2pm

World Youth Day Update

World Youth Day Sponsorship now available for high school students in public schools. Please contact Therese Touma on (02) 9390 5122 for sponsorship forms and/or further information.

Catechist Gathering
Monday 28 April
Dooleys Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe
10.30am to 1.30pm

The Catholic Adult Education Centre invites you to attend an evening seminar on the Vatican’s “Doctrinal Note” on the Mission of Evangelisation
Catholic Centre 3 Keating Street, Lidcombe
Tuesday 1 April at 7.30pm followed by supper
RSVP Friday 28 March: Maree Ph 9643 3660
Suggested donation $5

We wish all the Catechists and their families a safe, joyful and Holy Easter. May the hope and peace of our Lord’s Resurrection reign in all your hearts. God bless, CCD Staff