

Light and Life

Term 2, 2014



Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Catechist Newsletter

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FRONT COVER

SRE students and student catechist. Also features art reproduction by Ana, Yr 6, Sylvania Heights PS.

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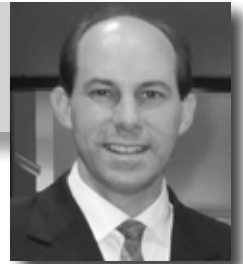
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Mimi Jane Rivera (02) 9390 5122 for RSVPs

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Central Area | Sarah Christie |
| Eastern Area | Robert Milan |
| Northern Area | Christopher Cox |
| Southern Area | Denise Humphreys |
| Western Area | Teresa Culjak |

From Director Doug Mawhinney



To Cardinal Pell, as you have been called to Rome by Pope Francis, thank you for your passion for education and support of the CCD. *Pace e bene.* Let us pray for our new Archbishop.

Thank you to all whom I have met so far for welcoming me so warmly to the CCD. I see that Catechists are very much in tune with Pope Francis and his recent *Gospel of Joy* letter: what a joyful bunch you are! Your joy and care casts Christ's love far and wide as you show your students who Jesus is and how to meet Him. May you continue to find ways to help your students recognise their innate goodness and draw upon their gifts as you ask God to bless them this Easter time.

I am enjoying attending the Accreditation Courses that bring together the 'what' (curriculum) and 'how to' (prayer and teaching skills) of being a Catechist. Many of the creative activities and practical tips have already been put into practice with our children at home – the classroom management skills really work!

As Pope Francis has said to Catechists, "*To be faithful, to be creative; we need to be able to change. To change! And why must I change? So that I can adapt to the situations in which I must proclaim the Gospel.*" Therefore, I highly recommend these Accreditation Courses to you, even as refreshers, to also enable you to satisfy the new government SRE requirements.

Hopefully you have noticed the Catechist articles in the new-look *Catholic Weekly*. Please continue to send us your classroom stories and quotes to help highlight the need for more Catechists. That said, nothing beats the personal touch – as Jesus did and continues to do through us if we let him – call others to go out into the harvest with you: let them know that the smiles and prayers of the children will remain with them forever!

I pray, a very happy and Holy Easter to you and your students as we start our Church year afresh in our Risen Lord,

Doug

We need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church.

- Pope Francis

From the Faith Education Officers

Eastern Area

Robert Milan

The minimum requirements to teach at public schools as volunteer catechist, helper or assistant will be a Basic One Accreditation Course, a Working With Children Check (WWCC) and a Green Card. The encouraging numbers in attendance at courses held at the Polding Centre, Maroubra Bay, Daceyville, Mascot, Randwick, Paddington, Edgecliff and Surry Hills are testimony to the urgency of attaining this minimum requirement. Thank you to Parish Priests and coordinators for hosting these courses. Please speak to your coordinator if you wish to have a course hosted at your parish. We have modified the Basic One Accreditation Course to fit into a four to five hour framework for existing catechists.



The WWCC Clearance is obtained by visiting <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/New-Working-with-Children-Check> and completing the online form. Any catechist who requires assistance should contact their coordinator and/or parish. Coordinators please note that I am available to spend a day or a few hours at your parish. Invite all catechists to attend and have them all fill out the form. Each form should take no more than five minutes to complete. Please be advised that this is the FIRST STEP in the process.

I wish to welcome aboard the students from Marist Pagewood as our new high school catechists. They will be available to provide assistance in public schools at the parishes of Malabar, Daceyville and Botany.

I remind Eastern Area Catechists that the Area Mass will be held on Friday 16 May from 11am at St Mary Magdalene Rose Bay, 835 New South Head Road, Rose Bay. In April I will send an email to coordinators with the invitation letter and a map for parking. Hope to see you all there!

Please feel free to ask for assistance. There is a lot happening in this transition time for all volunteers. I and the team at CCD are happy to lend a hand.

Robert

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robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Southern Area

Denise Humphreys

Our Area Mass will be held at Holy Family Parish, Menai on Friday 6 June at 11.30 am. After Mass we will gather for a shared "*bring a plate*" lunch. I hope you can come and celebrate together and meet other catechists of the area. There is plenty of space for parking in the church grounds.



The Easter season is here again. The cloth on your prayer place should now be white. This is the time to teach your students that the Lord is risen and rejoice, Alleluia! Alleluia! You must have noticed those lessons in our curriculum that deal with the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Do not rush them. Do not think it is too late to teach them. The Easter season continues until Pentecost Sunday (8th June this year). When it comes to teaching the joy of Easter to our students, our own example is paramount. If we come to class with a negative attitude or with lingering memories of a frustrating last lesson, how will the students see us as a model of God's love? Children are keenly aware of body language.

A highlight of last term's activities was the in-service given by Br Julian Quinlan on biblical storytelling. Br Julian demonstrated many ways to excite students by meeting them at their level with stories from Holy Scripture. When Jesus talked to people he used parables – stories that met them where they were and helped them understand his teachings using real life examples. Thank you Br Julian. You showed us how to bring the Scriptures alive in the classroom.

There will be two accreditation courses held this term at the Miranda CCD Centre, 50 Kiora Road Miranda. The Basic Two Accreditation Courses commence Thursday May 15 and Saturday May 17 while Advanced Accreditation Course begins on Monday 12 May.

Please ring or email if you need help and I will get back to you.

Denise

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denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



New catechist signs up
at Como-Oyster Bay.

From the Faith Education Officers

Central Area

Sarah Christie

Easter blessings to all in the Central Area!

This term has been the busiest of all first terms I have ever experienced at CCD. I owe a lot of my work so far this year to your impeccable timing in rallying to get your Working With Children Checks (WWCC) completed in a timely manner, as well as your enrolments in Accreditation Courses.



This is a great reflection of your zeal to continue your mission in sharing the Good News no matter the hurdles thrown your way. It's also a fantastic effort in light of the pressure on us to maintain our reputation ahead of the NSW Government's SRE Review later this year, which makes accreditation compulsory for all catechists, and of course, the new WWCC.

On this note, I'd like to thank the parishes of Riverwood, Campsie, and Belmore for organising and attending Basic One workshops. I'm also looking forward to teach the parishes of Greenacre and Summer Hill who contacted me to arrange courses. Thanks to the enthusiasm, it's been a record month for me with 54 Basic One Attendees and 15 Basic Two attendees across a total of five sessions. And of course I can't forget my high school catechists. The students of La Salle Bankstown and Bethlehem College Ashfield are already teaching in their respective public schools.

I hope this buzz continues well into Term 2, where we have more training, CCD events and of course our Area Mass. Please call me to help with WWCC matters and Basic One bookings. I look forward to seeing you and being a part of your wonderful work.

Finally, if I look a little rounder the next time you see me, it's not because I've overdosed on hot cross buns (though this is a fair assumption). By the blessing of God I am expecting my first child in July, so will be advising you all of my maternity leave plans in due course. God bless you always!

Sarah

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Western Area

Teresa Culjak

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

Term 1 has been a little busy trying to get all Catechists accredited with at least a Basic One Accreditation. Attending different parishes and conducting these classes is always something I love to do. You catechists really are the cream of the crop! Basic One Accreditation is now compulsory, so if you have yet to receive accreditation, please book yourself into a course. If there are a few of you in the parish who have yet to complete your accreditation, I am more than happy to come out to your parish and provide the training. Please call or email to arrange a time.



A special invitation and reminder about our upcoming Western Area Mass at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish on the 13 May 2014 from 7:00 to 9:30pm. This year we are trying something new and holding the event in the evening to cater for those catechists who work or who have other commitments on Fridays. I encourage you all to attend. You're welcome to bring your families so that they too can see the great work you offer and the importance of this ministry. There will be a light supper afterwards. There is no need to bring a plate. All will be catered for by the hosting parish. Thank you to Toni Whitfield and her team of catechists for organising this blessed event for us!

Hopefully by now everyone has received their clearance numbers with the Working with Children Check. If not, please apply as soon as possible.

In light of the Canonisation of John Paul II, I leave you with his words, *"Do not be afraid of the radicalness of His demands, because Jesus, who loved us first, is prepared to give Himself to you, as well as asking of you. If He asks much of you, it is because He knows you can give much."*

Thank you!

Teresa

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Caterina Mauro with Sister Joan Bell CSB.

From the Faith Education Officers

Northern Area

Chris Cox

I hope you are having a happy and Holy Easter.

We have had a great start and excellent numbers at the Basic One Accreditation Courses as well as many catechists starting to apply for their Working with Children Check. Many thanks must go to all the coordinators who assisted with promotion and organisation of the training. I have been attending many meetings that were held around the area and I look forward to an invitation to your next meeting.



It comes with great pleasure to announce that we have now started catechesis at Strathfield Girls High and Hunters Hill High school in the Northern Area. While we reach almost all Catholic children in public primary schools in Sydney, sadly, we only reach a small percentage in high schools. That means in high schools there are many students who miss out on being taught about faith and morals in the Catholic Tradition.

You may have noticed the new CCD poster in your parishes. Pope Francis is a great witness to others right around the world. I have been following our Pope on twitter and one tweet made an impact on his followers, "The world tells us to seek success power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love". As catechists, each of us is called to serve in unique ways, each of us has gifts and contributions to make that no one else can. We all have a reason and purpose for why we are here. It is up to each one of us to discern how we are called to serve. One of the most



Eleanor Emmerson, Frances Gibson, Barbara Burns and Priscilla Donovan at the bookshop.

important ways is to promote and bring the Catholic faith to others. As catechists we have an amazing opportunity to educate the minds and form the hearts of children. We pray that many more parishioners will take up this great ministry to help reach those students who are missing out.

Chris

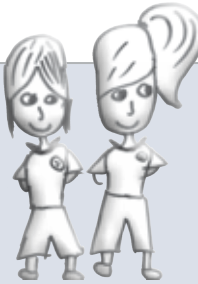
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chris.cox@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

From Catechists

Catechists share what makes their role exciting and special.



The joy of being able to bring young people closer to God.

- Terry Lee, Oatley

Knowing that I am going to share the faith which has been passed on through Apostolic succession from Our Lord Jesus to Peter and the Apostles.

- Kevin Smith, Croydon

I am most rewarded and overjoyed when the children answer the questions in their workbooks or write a prayer and I quietly walk around and look at what they are doing and realise how much they are listening and taking the lesson in.

- Geraldine Mallon-Andrew, Sylvania

After retiring from teaching I found that I missed the children and when there was a plea for more catechists I decided to respond. That was 17 years ago.

- Margaret Barrett, Marrickville

The flower will represent how much our love has grown to love you.

The flower will represent how much our love has grown to love you.



Please remember us because we will remember you.

Artwork courtesy of Year 2 SRE students at Lewisham Public School.

I love working with the children and especially listening to their stories.

- Susan King, Marrickville

Teaching scripture is one of the most spiritually fulfilling things I have done in my life.

- Rose Columbo, Kogarah

CCD welcomes contributions. Must have author permission. Selected contributions will be published in the CCD Newsletters and the Catholic Weekly.

CCD Free Courses for Catechists

- Pre-bookings are essential.
- Class sizes are limited.
- Classes could be cancelled if there are not enough bookings.



To book ring 9390 5122 or send an email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

CATECHIST ACCREDITATION COURSES

Basic One Accreditation Course

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--|------------------|
| Southern Area | May 8 (Intensive) Thursday 10:00 am to 2:30pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |
| Central Area | June 11 (Intensive) Wednesday 9:30am to 3:30pm | CCD Bankstown 15 Cambridge Ave, Bankstown | Sarah Christie |

Basic Two Accreditation Course

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--|------------------|
| Western Area | May 12, 19 & 26 Mondays 10:00am to 2:00pm | All Saints Parish 48 George Street, Liverpool | Teresa Culjak |
| Southern Area | May 15, 22 & 29 Thursdays 10:00am to 1:00pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |
| Southern Area | May 17, 24 & 31 Saturdays 10:00am to 1:00pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |

Intermediate Accreditation Course

| | | | |
|--------------|--|--|----------------|
| Central Area | Apr 28, May 12, 19 & 26, June 2 Mondays, except May 5 10:00am to 2pm | CCD Bankstown 15 Cambridge Ave, Bankstown | Sarah Christie |
|--------------|--|--|----------------|

Advanced Accreditation Course

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Southern Area | May 12, 19, 26 & June 2 & 16 Mondays, except June 9 10:00am to 1:00pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Road, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |
| Eastern and Northern Area | May 30, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm | Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney | Robert Milan and Chris Cox |

CATECHIST MINISTRY COURSES



Place of Scripture in
Catholic Tradition – MC04
Denise Humphreys

May 14, 21 & 28
Wednesdays 10am – 2pm
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney



Controversies in
Church History – MI22
Sarah Christie

April 30 & May 7 *Revised Dates*
Wednesdays 10am – 2pm
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street, Sydney



Christology – MI11
Robert Haddad

July 2 & 3
Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 3pm
CCD Bankstown
15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown

Catechists who wish to enrol in Catechist Ministry Certificate (CMC) subjects must have completed Basic One, Basic Two, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation Courses (or their pre-approved equivalent) prior to CMC course attendance.

EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 2014

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 21 Apr (Mon) | Easter Monday |
| 28 Apr (Mon) | Start of Term 2 |

MAY 2014

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| 5 May (Mon) | 10:00am to 1:30pm | Catechist Gathering | Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney |
| 8 May (Thurs) | 11:00am to 2:00pm | Central Area Mass | Regina Coeli, 5 Tarrilli St, Beverly Hills |
| 13 May (Tues) | 7:00pm to 9:30pm | Western Area Mass | Our Lady of Mt Carmel, 230 Humphries Rd, Mt Pritchard |
| 16 May (Fri) | 11:00am to 2:00pm | Eastern Area Mass | St Mary Magdalene's, 13 Ian St, Rose Bay |
| 23 May (Fri) | 11:00am to 2:00pm | Northern Area Mass | St Martha's, 70 Homebush Rd, Strathfield |

JUNE 2014

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 Jun (Fri) | 11:30am to 2:30pm | Southern Area Mass | Holy Family, 1D Anzac Road, Menai |
| 27 Jun (Fri) | | End of Term 2 | |

SMARTBOARD COURSES

Beginner Classes

20 May (Tues) 10am to 3pm, Polding Centre, Sarah C
2 June (Mon) 10am to 3pm, Polding Centre, Teresa C

Master Classes

23 May (Fri) 10am to 3pm, Polding Centre, Mimi R



SECONDARY SRE COURSES

CCRESS (Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools)
invites Secondary School Catechists to learn and exchange ideas and tips through a seminar.

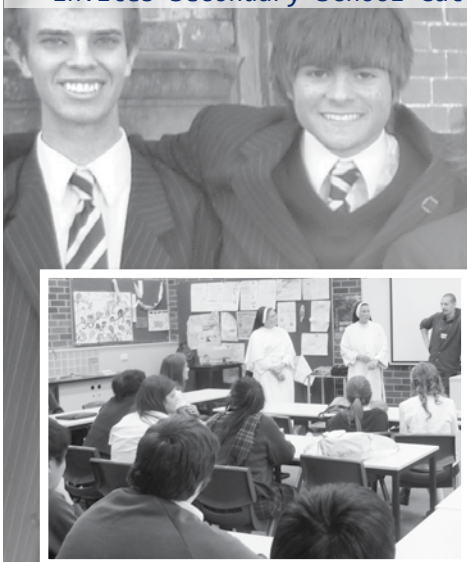
Keynote speaker: Fr Paul Roberts
Institute for Mission
Blacktown

Where: Caroline Chisholm Centre
423 Pennant Hills Road
(enter via City View Road)
Pennant Hills

When: Tuesday June 3, 2014
From 9 am to 2 pm

RSVP: By May 28, ring 9390 5122 or email
mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

The program begins with a Mass. The seminar will feature breakout groups to tackle *Classroom Management*, *Use of Multi Media* and other topics helpful for secondary SRE. Bring your questions!



Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering



MONDAY, 5 MAY 2014
10.00AM - 1.30PM

POLDING CENTRE

133 LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY

The first SRE review since 1982. What does this mean for you?

10.00 am

Opening Prayer and Introduction

Douglas Mawhinney
Director CCD

10.30 am

2014 SRE Government Review

Denise Humphreys
CCRESS (Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools) Executive

Timeless strategies for SRE Classes

11.30 am

Break for Refreshments

12.15 pm

Teaching Tips and Tactics

CCD Faith Education Officers

1.15 pm

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements

I wonder...

Touching minds and hearts

Classroom Management

HOT Teaching Tips

The Art of Questioning
That was cool!



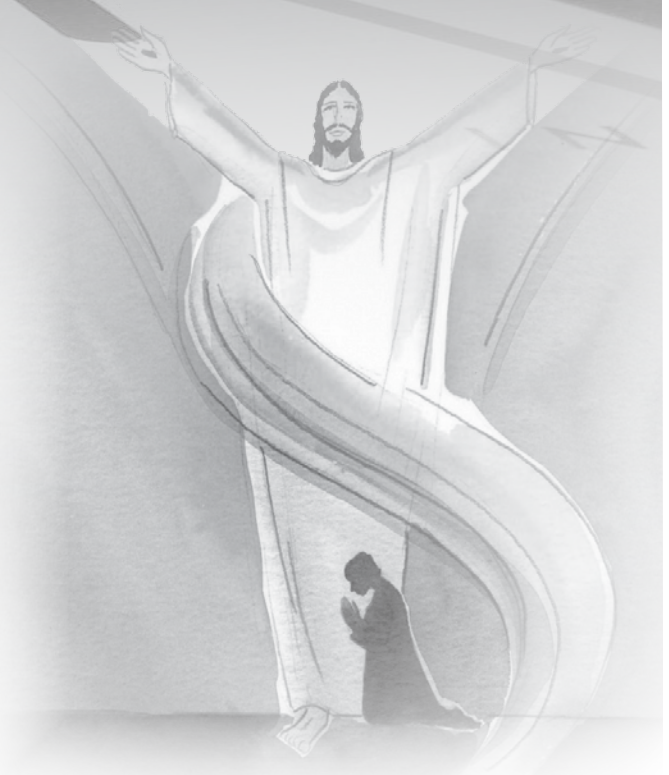
Don't miss out! Book by Wednesday **30 April 2014**. Places are limited. Catechist coordinators are requested to contact **CCD** with the number of catechists from their parishes who wish to attend the event by ringing **9390 5122** or via email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

My Story

By Wafa Khalife of Caringbah Parish

“Do not be afraid
for I am with you.”

Jeremiah 1:8



“You must go to everyone I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid for I am with you.”

- Jeremiah 1:8-9

The words of the Prophet Jeremiah have put a flame in my heart as I responded to my baptismal call.

Being a catechist is our calling as baptised to be the *“the salt of the earth and light of the world.”*

Sixteen years ago, the concept of *“catechist”* never came to my mind until one day a Scripture teacher approached and invited me to join in the catechetical ministry.

My initial reaction was ...*“Why me? I am not a qualified teacher nor do I have any theological background. I am not worthy.”*

I felt trapped with my own insecurity. Like the Scripture story of Jonah, I was evading God’s invitation but before I knew it, I was already on the shore.

How I have been so amazed on the enriching experience with the children.

There is a mutual spiritual growth as I journey with them. There are many times

I get new children into my class even from other denominations.

One boy who was so persistent to join in my class had a note from his mum requesting the Principal’s permission.

I asked him why he was so interested to be part of our scripture class. He replied..*“I heard you are a great teacher and have lots of fun.”* What an affirmation!

I gradually realized that the quality of our presence makes a difference in the life of these children.

My own faith experience becomes a *“good news”* for them.

I’m just in awe and wonder seeing the children with great enthusiasm in knowing deeper who God is in their life and that we are all made in God’s image.

What builds up our bond is our common desire to have intimate relationship with this unconditional Lover — God.

I always find the kids’ eyes spark with eagerness whenever I share with them my personal encounter with the Lord in my life’s journey.

Kids love variety. I always start with prayer. In the first half of the session

we talk about our faith then we use the books.

Usually I engage conversations with them about life’s experiences which they find very interesting.

Then I integrate their personal stories with the bigger stories in the Scripture.

They see in me a mother, a teacher and a friend whom they could trust and be confident to share their ideas, their dreams and their experiences in life.

I feel so blessed with their trust and respect. I always thank God’s transforming Spirit whenever I hear affirmations from the school teachers that the children love and enjoy my presence in the scripture class.

Like Isaiah I have been given the courage to say, *“Here I am Lord, send me!”*

I feel being empowered and being led to use my gifts of time, talents and presence to make God’s life-giving love more alive in our midst.

Being Catechist is not just *“doing”* things for God but more on *“being”* in and with God for the sake *“God’s kingdom”*.

Artwork courtesy of
Elizabeth Wang of Radiant Light.



Questions Questions Questions

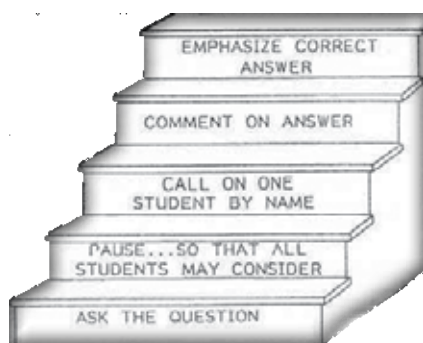
Teaching Tips

by Denise Humphreys



Questioning Techniques

Questioning is an important dimension of teaching and learning. It gives teachers the chance to find out what students know and understand. The diagram below shows a technique for asking questions.



Questions are sometimes described as being closed or open. Closed questions require only a single answer, a factual response, while open questions require students to reflect more thoughtfully on the subject. Your lessons should include both types of questions. However, avoid questions that only require a 'yes' or 'no' response.

Closed Questions

Closed questions are questions which require the student to recall previously learnt information. Often these use who, what, when, where, etc. Teachers tend to ask closed questions in the "knowledge" or factual category 80% to 90% of the time.

They ask this type of question not because they are interested in the answer, but because they want to get their students to display their knowledge. These questions are not bad, but using them all the time is. Your students will be less willing to answer questions if their purpose is always to test knowledge. They will leave the

question for that one student who always knows the answer.

Open Questions

Open type questions tend to be "why" and "how" questions which encourage students to think more deeply about a concept or the reasons for an answer. In open questions the teacher does not have a particular answer in mind and different responses are possible. These are questions which encourage exploration of possibilities.

Wondering

A feature of our curriculum is the open wondering statements. These signal to the students the on-going and life-long process of engaging with the mystery of God. Suggested 'wondering' statements are provided in the *Christ Our Light and Life* curriculum. Catechists select from these and adapt where necessary to suit the needs of the students.

Remember:

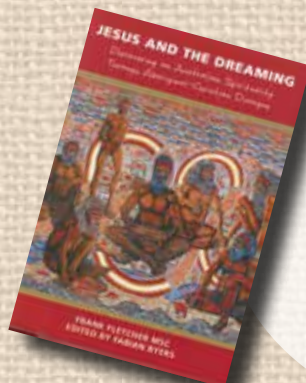
- The "I wonder" statements engage students with the story, invite reflection and elicit their ideas and thoughts.
- Wondering together teaches the art of dialogue, of listening to others, accepting and learning from others' ideas and contributions.
- Wondering together allows for learning that comes from within each person. It is important to trust the presence of the Holy Spirit in this process.
- There are no 'right' answers to wondering statements. They are not comprehension questions.
- Wondering statements are not suited to factual information. It would not be right to use it for key belief statements like, "I wonder if Jesus really rose from the dead."

I wonder why Jesus went to a quiet place to pray...

I wonder why Simon helped Jesus to carry His cross...



Autumn Reads

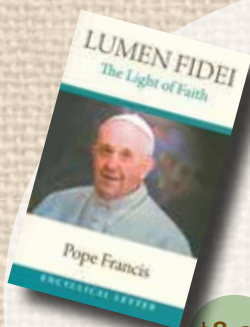


Jesus and the Dreaming

By Frank Fletcher MSC

Jesus and the Dreaming traces how an Australian Catholic priest's encounter with Aboriginal people forced him to confront the challenges and possibilities that Aboriginal spirituality present to western Christianity.

\$24.95



\$8.95

LUMEN FIDEI The Light of Faith

By Pope Francis

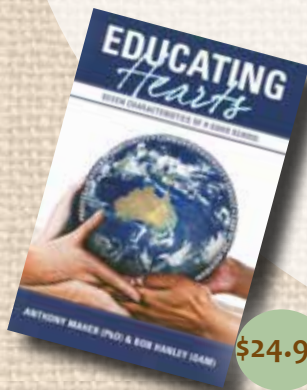
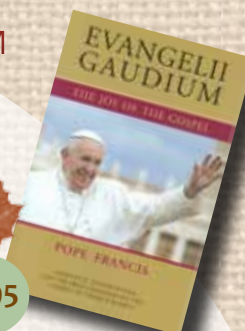
This encyclical letter seeks to recover the luminous character of faith, which is built into the human being and helps one distinguish the good from the bad.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM The Joy of the Gospel

By Pope Francis

Apostolic exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world.

\$9.95



\$24.95

Educating Hearts

By Anthony Maher PhD and Bob Hanley OAM

Educating Hearts is a must read for parents, teachers and educational intuitions.

The One Thing God Cannot Do

By Ron Hassari

Ron Hassari offers us Christian spirituality as it should be...all embracing, warm, free for all, unhindered, joyful and above all, in touch with humanity.

\$17.95



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Priscilla Donovan



Eleanor Emmerson

Conditions apply. Birthday Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with *Christ our Light and Life*, *To Know Worship and Love* Text Books, Big Books, Sacramental Programs and already discounted stock. The voucher can be used within a year of the catechist's birthday.



Thank you Your Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC

for your support of the CCD

Appointed Prefect of the
Secretariat for the Economy of the Holy See
February 2014



Photo of Cardinal Pell with Pope Francis by CNS/L'Osservatore Romano.
Other photos by Catholic Weekly and CCD.