The Door of Faith is always open for us.

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

In the Year of Faith, catechists share how they opened their doors to Christ.
From the Acting Director
Eddie Kropkowski

Welcome back to the start of a new year! Hope you all had a pleasant, holy and restful holiday break over summer despite the inclement weather.

As you will no doubt be aware, Director Robert Haddad has since moved on to take up a position with the Sydney Catholic Education Office at Leichhardt. His final day at CCD was 25 January 2013 – a small farewell luncheon was organised by staff at Polding Centre. We wish him all the very best in his new job. The extensive and dedicated work carried out by Robert Haddad during his tenure in revising the primary curriculum and establishing a new secondary one is very much appreciated. Coupled with this, late last year, a new sacramental program (Gratia Series) was launched. The project initiated by Bishop Julian Porteous, some two years ago, was supervised and edited by Robert. It is therefore pleasing to report that the new program is being very well received. Over 8,000 individual books have already been sold, indicating that a need obviously existed among many parishes for a new updated version. Apart from the local Sydney and NSW markets, orders are now being received from all states in Australia and even a good number from New Zealand.

The popularity of the 3rd Edition Christ Our Light and Life series also continues to do well. We apologise for the small delay (to some parishes), in receiving Years 5 & 6. This was caused by rectifying minor errors late last year, which then held up the printing process.

SMART Board courses continue to be very popular, especially the Beginners course, so much so that additional courses have to be regularly scheduled. This is obviously the way of the future, and I encourage all catechists to get in early, book one of these courses and learn the basic elements.

In conjunction with Wollongong Diocese, a new initiative to provide music to accompany the Electronic White Board is currently being developed and tested. A group of four popular music groups have been selected. Copyright issues have been granted with certain conditions. More news on this new project later.

Thank you to all catechists and parish coordinators for the wonderful work that you do, especially at this time of year in organising and arranging new classroom times and providing the necessary SRE resources to the children.

Eddie
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EASTERN</th>
<th>SOUTHERN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
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</table>

Beginning a new school year with a positive attitude sets the pace for a good year. Challenges become opportunities. Those who know me see how a positive attitude enables one to face any challenge. As the late motivational speaker Zig Ziglar said, “You cannot do everything with a positive attitude but you can do so much more with than with a negative attitude.”

February and March recruitments were encouraging. The parishes of Mascot, Botany, Randwick and Rosebery showed tremendous results. Coordinators excitedly report new catechists and team growth. Let us keep building this ministry. To recruit, I urge the use of media marketing tools represented by the acronym AIDA. AIDA stands for Awareness, Interest, Desire and Call to Action. Raise parish awareness through your presence and speaking engagements at weekend Masses. Trigger interest and desire to help through the sharing of actual experiences that illustrate reality. Call to action by extending an invitation, presenting the available support network, promoting the free training and the solid curriculum. Approach people after Mass and in every opportunity you have. Sometimes people just need to be asked.

The Student High School Catechist Program continues to grow in the Eastern Area. I trained 42 students of St Vincent’s College at Potts Point. These new high school catechists from St Vincent’s College will provide extra catechists and support to Paddington Public School and Elizabeth Bay’s Darlington Public School. I wish to thank the College Principal, Fay Gurr and Director of Faith and Mission, Rachel McLean, for making this possible. Three to four other Eastern Area Catholic schools expressed interest. I will keep you informed of the progress as information comes to hand.

I wish you all a great year. As always, please feel free to contact me if you require any assistance.

Robert

Tel: 9390 5122  
Fax: 9283 5146  
robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

A special welcome to all new catechists. Remember you must attend an inservice on the Child Protection guidelines and use of our curriculum before you go into the classroom to teach on your own. Your coordinator will arrange this for you.

The Southern Area Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Sylvania on Thursday 16 May. All catechists and prayer partners are invited to attend. Mass will start at 11:30am. After Mass there will be an opportunity to gather for a BYO lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

During Term 1 an enthusiastic group of catechists completed the Basic One Accreditation Course at Miranda, Menai and Brighton Le Sands. This course is designed to help with classroom management, lesson preparation and covers Child Protection issues, as well as giving basic understanding of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible. This course will be repeated each term in various locations.

Term 2 has nine weeks of lessons for most catechists. This can be a very busy period. Remember to change the prayer cloth to white as we are now celebrating the great feast of Easter. The Easter season lasts until Pentecost Sunday (May 26), so you have five weeks in which to tell those Easter stories. Do not rush these lessons. Hopefully each catechist has access to Br Julian’s Easter lesson materials. These make great additions to the telling of the Easter story. There is also a selection of pictures at Miranda that might be just what you are looking for. As I am at the Miranda office most Mondays, just come down and browse.

There will be more accreditation courses held at CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road Miranda. The Advanced Accreditation Course (AAC) commences on Monday 29 April, and the Basic One Accreditation Course (BA1), commences on Friday 17 May. Both of these courses will run from 10am to 2pm. A special catechist inservice on The Christmas Story Art Exhibition will be held on Friday 31 May. Further details about courses can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

Please contact me if you need help and I will get back to you.

Denise

Tel: 9524 6400  
Fax: 9524 6400  
denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Recent Basic Two class participants at Miranda
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CENTRAL</th>
<th>WESTERN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Christie</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teresa Culjak</strong></td>
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</table>

Welcome back to another year of Catholic SRE! The 2013 year is already in full swing, with many of you using the CCRESSE Recruitment DVD to help with your recruitment. I think it's a valuable tool because it highlights what goes on in the SRE classroom, the people drawn to be catechists, and the fruit that comes from catechist work in a beautiful, easy way.

Most of you have now heard about the changing Child Protection legislation. Keep yourselves alert for our announcement of the date that new checks – which involve ID checks and an RTA clearance number – come into effect. If you struggle with the process, let me know. Although this change might be cumbersome, it is also welcome to ensure the school environment is free from unqualified volunteers.

As you all know, I now work at the CCD Bankstown office. The new location has been a welcome change for some - and it was great seeing some new faces at our Area Coordinators Meeting. I’m currently looking into a Craft Day, similar to the one run at Miranda last year, but if there are any other courses you wish to do here, please let me know.

As per your requests, I’m also planning a spiritual retreat day here at the Bankstown office in October. All of these plans – in addition to my regular job training and teaching in classrooms – mean things have been quite busy, especially as I train new groups of high school catechists.

I hope this is a fruitful year for all, and look forward to seeing you at the Area Mass at St Therese in Padstow. Remember to bring a plate as it is a small parish. Coordinators please register your parish attendance with me or Mimi. Thanks once again for your wonderful work. I hope you have a great Lent and Easter.

God bless you and your pupils,

Sarah

Tel: 9708 3738
Fax: 9283 5146
sarah.christie@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Greetings to all in the Western Area!

Welcome to 2013, the Year of Grace and Faith. I’m sure there will be many blessings given and received during this momentous year.

Pope Benedict XVI has encouraged all Catholics to recite the Nicene Creed daily in the Year of Faith. This is a wonderful opportunity to share and teach your students what we believe as Catholics and to recite the Creed at each lesson.

It is an opportune time to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Catechist Ministry Courses and Accreditation Courses are highly recommended. They are free and taught in a relaxed environment. I encourage each catechist to attend at least one course during the Year of Faith. (Please see page 6 to 7 for a list of courses available).

Sam Clear will be our guest speaker at the *Lunch & Learn* in May. Sam will share his story as he travelled the world for Christian Unity, having to find food and water every day. He relied on the hospitality of complete strangers. He was mugged with a knife, threatened at gun point, bashed on the side of the road, came face to face with dangerous animals and experienced extreme weather conditions. Yet through it all, God’s love in action stood out under the most incredible circumstances. Sam now works as Managing Director at Harvest Pilgrimages for their Inroads Division. For more on this *Lunch & Learn* session, see page 6.

The Western Area Mass is a special time to come together, celebrate and give thanks for the catechetical ministry. It will be held at 11am on Friday 24 May 2013 at John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bonnyrigg. Parking is limited. I encourage you to car pool with others in your parish. There will be a special car park open for the event on Gloucester Street. Following Mass, there will be a shared lunch. Please bring a plate. I hope to see you there.

Thank you for helping to build a culture of love.

Teresa

Tel: 9708 3738
Fax: 9283 5146
teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Welcome back to all catechists in the Northern Area!

I do hope you have settled well into 2013 and had a fantastic start to the teaching year. Welcome to all new catechists who may have just started. Term 1 has been busy for me, full of teaching, meetings and courses.

Congratulations to all catechists who received awards on Catechist Sunday. You are an inspiration to your church community.

Once again I will be teaching accreditation courses that provide an opportunity to immerse yourselves in new ideas for classroom practice and faith exploration. These are beneficial for coming to know, worship and love God through teaching others. I would like to thank all those catechists and coordinators who attended the Basic One course to increase their knowledge and skills.

The High School Catechist program is up and running again in the Northern Area. Students are being trained and entering schools as helpers and catechists. Several schools within the region expressed interest in the program. Selection and training of student catechists are progressing. Please advise me if you know of any school that may be interested.

The commencement date for the New Working with Children Check has not yet been announced. We anticipate an announcement over the coming weeks and will keep you informed of any updates.

In the interim the current legislation and processes are in place.

None of the online forms for the New Working with Children Check will be available until implementation date. Information will be available through the website: www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au.

Please let me know if you require any assistance.

Chris
Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
chris.cox@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
# Accreditation Courses - April to July 2013

Pre-bookings essential: Ring 9390 5122 or via email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

## BASIC ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>April 5, 12</td>
<td>Polding Centre</td>
<td>Chris Cox</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>May 7, 14</td>
<td>CCD Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>50 Kiora Road, Miranda</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>May 13, 20</td>
<td>St Gertrude’s (demountable)</td>
<td>Teresa Culjak</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mondays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>6 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
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<td>Central</td>
<td>June 3 (Intensive)</td>
<td>CCD Bankstown</td>
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<td>Mondays 9:30am to 3:30pm</td>
<td>15 Cambridge Ave, Bankstown</td>
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## BASIC TWO

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>May 27, June 3, 17, 24</td>
<td>St Gertrude’s (demountable)</td>
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<td>(no June 10)</td>
<td>6 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mondays 10am to 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>June 7, 14, 21</td>
<td>CCD Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>50 Kiora Road, Miranda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>July 17, 14, 31</td>
<td>CCD Bankstown</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
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## INTERMEDIATE

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<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>Polding Centre</td>
<td>Chris Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
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<td>Eastern</td>
<td>May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td>Polding Centre</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
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## ADVANCED

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3</td>
<td>CCD Miranda</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mondays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>50 Kiora Road, Miranda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>June 4, 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>Polding Centre</td>
<td>Chris Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesdays 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>133 Liverpool Street, Sydney</td>
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### Secondary SRE Training

June 17 and 24 (Mondays) 10am to 2pm  
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney  
Robert Milan  
Ring 9390 5122 to register for the course.

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### Lunch & Learn

The next Lunch and Learn is on 31 May 2013, Friday, at St Gertrude’s Parish 8 Justin St (demountable), Smithfield

- 9:15am  Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
- 11:00am Testimony of Sam Clear, Harvest Pilgrimages  
- 12:30pm Lunch (Please bring a plate to share)

You are welcome to attend all or part of the program.  
**RSVP Essential:** CCD on 9390 5122

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Sam travels the world for Christian Unity. He saw God’s love in action when he was bashed, held at gun point and came face to face with dangerous animals.
## CCD Calendar

### April 2013
- **1 Apr (Mon)** 10am to 3pm  
  Easter Monday  
- **12 Apr (Fri)** 10am to 3pm  
  End of Term 1  
- **29 Apr (Mon)** 10am to 3pm  
  Start of Term 2

### May 2013
- **9 May (Thurs)** 11:00am to 2:00pm  
  Central Area Mass  
  St Therese's Catholic Church  
  11 Harvey Avenue, Padstow  
- **10 May (Fri)** 10:00am to 1:30pm  
  Catechist Gathering  
  Polding Centre  
  133 Liverpool St, Sydney  
- **16 May (Thurs)** 11:30am to 2:30pm  
  Southern Area Mass  
  Our Lady of the Way  
  191 Princess Highway, Sylvania  
- **17 May (Fri)** 11:00am to 2:00pm  
  Eastern Area Mass  
  St Joseph’s Catholic Church  
  1a Morley Avenue, Rosebery  
- **24 May (Fri)** 11:00am to 2:00pm  
  Western Area Mass  
  John the Baptist Catholic Church  
  45 Mount St, Bonnyrigg Heights

### June 2013
- **19 Jun (Wed)** 12:30pm to 2:30pm  
  Northern Area Mass  
  St Mark’s Catholic Church  
  33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne

### Interactive Whiteboard Courses - Term 2, 2013

#### SMART Board Beginner Classes
- **21 May (Tues)** 10am to 3pm  
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney  
- **3 Jun (Mon)** 10am to 3pm  
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney  
- **17 Jun (Mon)** 10am to 3pm  
  15 Cambridge Avenue, Bankstown  
- **19 Jun (Wed)** 10am to 3pm  
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney  
- **24 Jun (Mon)** 10am to 2pm  
  CCD Miranda, 50 Kiorda Road, Miranda  
- **5 Jul (Fri)** 10am to 3pm  
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

#### SMART Board Master Classes
- **May 17 (Fri)** 10am to 3pm  
  Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

CCD is able to take people on waiting list should the maximum student count be reached.  
**SMART Board Classes held in locations other than Polding Centre use the Mimio portable interactive system.**

### Catechist Ministry Certificate 2013

#### Term 2, 2013 - All held at the Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controversies in Church History (MI22)</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
<td>Apr 29 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Tues 10am to 3pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology of the Body (MI15)</td>
<td>Chris Cox</td>
<td>May 13, 20 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Mon 10am to 2pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Eucharist (MI19)</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
<td>May 23 &amp; 30</td>
<td>Thurs 10am to 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place of Scripture in Catholic Tradition (MC01)</td>
<td>Denise Humphreys</td>
<td>June 6, 13, 20 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Thurs 10am -1pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hurry, book now!  Ring 9390 5122 or send an email to mimi.rivera@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au.
Lee Leo grew up in a family that identified itself as Church of England. Although she did not undergo any formal religious education, Lee always assumed that she had been baptised, but was later surprised to discover that this was not the case. Her family was not religious. She found herself overwhelmed and confused.

Lee’s journey to the Catholic faith took time. She was troubled by the grief of losing her husband to terminal illness in 1987 but later found herself at peace.

She started attending the Parish of St Andrew’s Malabar. She admits that initially she did not take a lot of notice as to what was happening. However, her curiosity led her to heed a church advertisement and receive a series of pamphlets from the Catholic Inquiry Centre. The pamphlets covered one subject each week.

The Catholic Inquiry Centre presented a very friendly and caring attitude towards Lee and would check on her regularly, something that would eventually help her decide to embrace the Catholic Faith. By this time, it had dawned on her that she would like to receive Holy Communion or in her words, “be part of what everyone else is [doing]”.

Lee then took the momentous step to speak to the Parish Priest, Father Pat Hurley, who would be instrumental in her conversion and overall commitment and involvement in Catholic life.

After consulting with Father Pat, who provided Lee with instruction through the RCIA program, Lee was welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday 25 March 1989, which also happened to be the Feast of the Annunciation.

Since her conversion Lee has not looked back and feels very secure and committed to the Catholic Faith. This is demonstrated in her many varied roles within St Andrew’s Parish, Malabar, which begins with her daily attendance at Mass. From 1990 Lee responded to the call of the catechist apostolate and has been teaching for over 20 years. In 2010 she received the Apostolic Blessing for 20 years of Service as a catechist. For four years from 2004 to 2008 she was also nominated as the Eastern Area Representative for the Sydney Archdiocesan Catechist Council.

Lee also coordinates the catechists at Malabar and has been in this leadership role since 1999. Lee’s talents extend beyond the classroom where she is an Extraordinary Minister of Communion taking the Body of Jesus to those unable to attend Mass, to the sick and less mobile in the community; she conducts Communion Services at the local nursing home; prepares the altar for daily and weekend Mass as a sacristan and an “event manager” for her informal role in organising the annual Pere Receveur Mass, also known as Pere Mass. Pere Receveur is the first French Priest to hold a Mass at Le Perouse. The Pere Mass is celebrated annually in mid-February, usually on the 17th.

Besides her parish life, which in itself is filled with service to God, His Church and the Parish and extended community, Lee is a mother of three children (one son and two daughters) and grandmother to four lovely grandchildren. Her husband’s Catholic background had meant that her children were all baptised Catholic.

Lee’s experience shows how something good can arise from the tragedy of losing a loved one. The once shy and reserved woman has gained the confidence to rise up to new challenges and find strength in her commitments. Lee sums it up saying, “Based on my experience it [becoming a Catholic] is the best thing I’ve done. I can’t imagine life without daily Mass. Anyone thinking of becoming Catholic, should find out about it.”
I was born in Croatia on the island of Vis. Here my parents taught me to pray and to love Our Lady. During the Second World War we left our country to escape the communist regime. We spent five years at the City of Alexandria in Egypt where I received my early education from the French nuns at the College of the Mother of God.

Here I also received my first education in Sacred Scriptures because my parents did not dare teach me any of it during Communism. When the nuns and priests offered special advanced religious lessons, I expressed interest. I took in all the heavenly lessons which made me feel as if I was "walking on air". At the end of the three year course we made a pledge to use our knowledge to defend and propagate the faith whenever the occasion presented itself. We were made crusaders and wore a white banner across our shoulder with a big blue cross. When I came to Australia the nuns at Holy Cross, Woollahra kept my faith flame alive and added to my knowledge.

I married and had three children and exercised my pledge many times during my life entering into debates concerning my faith. When my children grew up, the Lord gave me the task of looking after my old and invalid parents for 14 years. Dad was paralysed from a stroke and mum had permanent amnesia after a car accident. After they died I knelt in front of the Sacred Heart statue in my lounge room and asked, "Where to from here Lord? I am free and at Your service again."

The following Sunday at Mass, a catechist was speaking and asking for volunteers to join the catechist 'army'. My daughter was sitting next to me. We looked at each other and we both knew what the Lord was asking me to do from now on. He gave me a new task. I became a catechist and I promised to do my best and never refuse a vacancy if I can possibly take it.

That was 15 years ago. The Lord kept throwing into my lap school after school, class after class, so I have lost count of how many schools I have taught in my time. I currently teach Kindergarten to Year 10 at six primary schools and two high schools. I have 14 classes each week. I see 250 students. This is my full time occupation now, besides looking after my sick husband. I have never been happier in my life. I am being rewarded each time I see some of my pupils make progress or change from someone who knew nothing about God to someone who now knows and loves Him. Being a catechist is the greatest achievement in life. I thank the Lord for calling me into existence, for letting me know Him and taking me into His Church. I also thank Him for calling me to be a catechist.

I have lost count of how many schools I have taught in my time. I currently teach at eight schools, including two high schools.

By Zlata Bozanic (nee Kuzmanic)
Life Members Function 2012
Photo Gallery

Robert Haddad with awardees from left to right, front row: Catherine Inez Mary Brock, Mary Bowler, Maureen Sullivan, Viviane Felice, Mary Grace McGregor, Anna Rose Furfaro. Back row: Valerie Royle-Polkamp, Beryl Dinos, Angela Mangini, Barbara Joan Sherry, Rosaria Rita Caltabiano (Apologies from Isabel Scullino of Austral and Joan O’Grady of Malabar).

Fr Anthony Percy was guest speaker.

2011 Life Member Jamelie Morabito with guests.

Barbara Joan Sherry with guests.

Valerie Royle-Polkamp and Mary Bowler with guests.

CCD friends and catechists joined the celebration.

Rosaria Rita Caltabiano, Mary Grace McGregor and Catherine Inez Mary Brock with guests.
CCD warmly welcomed 13 new Life Members in a special Mass at Lidcombe and lunch at Dooley’s Catholic Club on 30 November 2012. Catechists are awarded Life Membership after serving at least 30 years.
Join our Birthday Club and receive a 25% discount voucher for your birthday.

Use the voucher in person or email your selection. Register by ringing the bookshop on 9390 5130.

Sydney Catholic Books & Resources
Ph: 02 9390 5130 Fax: 02 9283 5146
Email: books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Online bookshop: www.sydneycatholicbooks.org.au

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.