A recent Colloquium was hosted by the CREDO office on the topic of Evangelical Preaching. This was attended by all the FEO’s who gained greatly from hearing the excellent speakers. The emphasis of the conference was the practical way of spreading the Good News.

One of the main speakers was Fr Ken Barker who spoke on the spiritual and human preparation needed to be a missionary and a preacher. He gave very practical advice and illustrated his message with inspiring stories.

Fr Barker spoke about the dynamic power of the Word. The Word of God signifies what it represents. The Word alive and active, opens hearts. No created thing can hide from Christ. The preaching of the Good News is the Word of the Cross. This illogical madness is the wisdom of God.

The experience of St Paul showed that philosophical preaching fails. It was only when he preached the crucified Christ that the Holy Spirit fell on the listeners. The kernel of the message got through. To unleash the power of the gospel therefore, we must preach the crucifixion and resurrection and that Jesus is Lord.

The men on the road to Emmaus had all the facts but no hope in them. The message had not impacted them therefore they needed preaching. Jesus had to interpret for them and open their eyes and hearts “Were not our hearts burning within us….as he was opening the scriptures to us.”

Faith comes through hearing. Therefore great preachers are needed to present Jesus who opens the hearts of the hearer. If we as preachers surrender to the Holy Spirit, things happen. A preacher on fire speaks in love. Preaching needs preparation but it is also fundamentally charismatic – the Holy Spirit works in you while the Lord opens the hearts of the listener. Preaching is meant to have an effect. Many people are never challenged to make a personal commitment to Jesus. We need to pray, care, dare and share. God provides the Divine appointments. When we find ourselves with someone in need we first must show we care.

We need the heart of the Shepherd. Our tone of voice, body language must be true to our words and indicate a true attitude of love. We can not fake it. Mother Teresa’s advice for every situation is to think to ourselves—“Jesus says “You did it to me”.

We need to forget self and allow the other to experience love first and foremost. This attracts them to who we are – either as a community or to our personal life.

A moment of speaking is then necessary for conversion and leads to a deeper call for personal holiness. The response can be unpredictable. Do not be afraid to share a bit of yourselves to show you are in solidarity with others. We are fellow travelers sharing weaknesses and fallibility. We must have a deep conviction that only Jesus is the answer to our brokenness and frailty and that the Word meets us where we are, not from “on high”. We are only earthenware vessels.

We need to preach Jesus but must recognise the entry point. By lots of listening we can identify where the hurts, deep wounds and struggles are. Speaking of death and Hell are not the starting points. The question asked today is whether there is any life after birth. People these days, need to discover heaven here now. By finding out where their deep need is they can discover Christ and then later repent of sin. Jesus offers fullness of life. Every one desires inner peace.
THANK YOU

A big thank you to all involved in the Area Masses. These Masses provide an opportunity to thank God for His blessings on our work and to support each other in our apostolate as catechists. We are most appreciative of the priests who offer the Mass for us and to the co-ordinators and catechists of the host parish who do so much to prepare and ensure a very enjoyable day for all.

In the Words of Pope Benedict XVI...

"Experience has shown that when the truth about man is subverted or the foundation of the family undermined, peace itself is threatened and the rule of law is compromised, leading inevitably to forms of injustice and violence."

"Only by losing ourselves, the Lord tells us, do we truly find ourselves. True freedom blossoms when we turn away from the burden of sin, which clouds our perceptions and weakens our resolve, and find the source of our ultimate happiness in him who is infinite love, infinite freedom, infinite life."

"God's unconditional love, which bathes every human individual, points to a meaning and purpose for all human life."

"The secret to being young at heart is to live with hope, which one only finds in a true encounter with Jesus Christ."

"Mission is a duty about which one must say 'Woe to me if I do not evangelize' (1 Corinthians 9:16), because those who proclaim the Gospel participate in the charity of Christ."

"It is love that must move us to proclaim to all men with frankness and courage the truth that saves, a love that must radiate everywhere and reach the heart of every man. Indeed, men await Christ."

"For believers, the family -- cell of communion at the very foundations of society -- is like a 'small domestic church' called to reveal God's love to the world."

"Help families to be a visible sign of this truth, to defend the values which are written in human nature itself and which are therefore common to all humanity: life, the family and education."
**Continued Evangelical Preaching**

The first word they need to hear is hope. Life can be better - security and a true sense of self worth is possible.

**Emotional and relational healing** is often necessary especially for those outside the church. The struggle and pain found in relationships often leads to profound damage. These people have a dislocation in the heart and need gentle, compassionate, healing words and an experience of God’s love. The preaching is only relevant if it touches a raw nerve.

The language we use is not instruction, not doctrine and morals. We need a different discourse, one which is image laden, full of simple stories, parables, that are evocative and hit the heart not the head. Words that appeal to the imagination, initiates into mystery and moves the heart - never mere prose. The touchstone of success is when the other person becomes an evangeliser themselves. It is not accidental that we are here. The essence of the church is to evangelise!

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Jesus promised that the Heavenly Father would give the Holy Spirit to those who asked (Luke 11:13). Ask then! The liturgy of Pentecost offers us magnificent words to do this:

"Come, Holy Spirit …
Come, O Father of the poor,
Ever bounteous of Thy store,
Come, our heart’s unfailing light.

Come, Consoler, kindest, best,
Come, our bosom’s dearest guest,
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.
Rest in labor, coolness sweet,
Tempering the burning heat,
Trust comfort of our woes!"

Come Holy Spirit!

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**Participation in the Liturgy**

You may have heard that, from May 11, 2008, new procedures concerning posture prior to receiving Holy Communion are to be introduced in Australia. The Interim Text English translation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) for Australia reads:

“When approaching to receive Holy Communion, the faithful bow in reverence of the Mystery that they are to receive”. (160)

The document also recommends standing to receive “so that Communion may truly be a sign of unity amongst those sharing the same table of the Lord”. (160)

Secretary to the Australian Bishop’s Committee for Liturgy, Father Peter Williams, who is responsible for the translation of the texts under consideration, has assured us that bowing deeply before receiving Communion is to be “at least the minimal gesture” and that people are still permitted to receive in whatever reverential way they choose. This means that those who wish to genuflect before reception of Holy Communion, or kneel to receive, may freely exercise these forms of reverence and are not acting in disobedience to Church discipline.

# Since we are body and soul, our reverence for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist has to show itself also in gestures such as genuflection to the tabernacle on entry and at exit, genuflection where prescribed by Church books inside the Mass, genuflection or bow at the reception of Holy Communion, clean and well-maintained altar equipment, approved liturgical vestments for the priest and his altar assistants and a respectful attitude in people coming and going. (Address by Cardinal Arinze, Prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, July 2003)

# The Congregation (for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments) considers any refusal of Holy Communion to a member of the faithful on the basis of his or her kneeling posture to be a grave violation of one of the most basic rights of the Christian faithful, namely that of being assisted by their Pastors by means of the Sacraments. In fact, as His Eminence, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has recently emphasized, the practice of kneeling for Holy Communion has in its favour a centuries-old tradition and it is a particularly expressive sign of adoration, completely appropriate in light of the true, real and substantial presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ under the consecrated species. (Cardinal Medina Estevez, Prefect, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, July 2002)

# Even where the Congregation has approved of legislation denoting standing as the posture for Holy Communion, in accordance with the adaptations permitted to the Conferences of Bishops by the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal) n. 160 paragraph 2, it has been done so with the stipulation that communicants who choose to kneel are not to be denied Holy Communion on these grounds. (Monsignor Mario Marini, Undersecretary, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, July 2002)

# Certainly it is clear from the very documents of the Holy See that in dioceses where the Eucharistic Bread is put in the hands of the faithful, the right to receive the Eucharistic Bread on the tongue still remains intact to the faithful. Therefore, those who restrict communicants to receive Holy Communion only in the hands are acting against the norms. However, let all remember that the time-honoured tradition is to receive the Host on the tongue. The celebrant priest, if there is a present danger of sacrilege, should not give the faithful Communion in the hand. (Notitiae, the official publication of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, April 1999)
Around the Archdiocese...

Catechist Ministry Certificate:
N.B courses require a minimum of 10 students to run. Bookings are required two weeks in advance

The Catechism (MI20) Mary Carolan
Hoxton Park
Mondays 10am to 2pm
May 26, June 2, 16, 23, 30

Church Teachings on Mary (MI21) Robert Haddad
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Monday and Tuesday 9am—2pm July 7, 8

Paul (MI03) Ruth Fernandes
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Mondays 10am—2pm
July 28, August 4, 11, 18

Christology (MI11) Robert Haddad
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Thursday & Friday 9am –2pm
October 2, 3

Theology 1 Making Sense of the Faith (MC03) Robert Milan
Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney
Fridays 9.30am—2.30pm
July 25 August 1, 8

Teaching and Learning Strategies (MI14) Denise Humphreys
CCD Miranda, 50 Kiora Road Miranda
Mondays, 10am to 1pm
August 25, September 1, 8, 15, 22

World Youth Day Update

WYD news – keep your eye on the Catholic Weekly for articles on what is happening and the patron saints for WYD.

* Another new website to promote what is happening in the lead up to WYD is www.ybenedict.org
* There will also be many opportunities for faith formation and mission in the week prior to WYD.
* International Youth Forum Goulburn
A chance to prepare for WYD and be part of an International Emmanuel Community event.
9-13 July more information is available at www.wyd-emmanuel.info
* Missionaries for the Pope July 10 –14 for young women 16—29 at St Dominic’s parish www.missionnetwork.com

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
Training for adults working with three-six year olds will be held June 7, 8, 9 at Our Lady of Dolours, 94 Archer Street Chatswood. The approach used in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been incorporated into the new curriculum. This training opportunity is highly recommended to those who teach infants classes. For more information please phone Angela Hague ph 9412 1042.

Eucharistic procession
Thank you to all who promoted this great event for the Archdiocese.

Intermediate Accreditation Course
10-2pm July 30, Aug 6, 13, 30, 27, Sept 3
St Therese Parish 11 Harvey Avenue Padstow

Attention all catechists and co-ordinators
Please notify your course requests for Term Three to FEO’s by June 10 so these can be published in the next Term Newsletter.