"With the angel’s greeting to Mary —‘kaire’ in the Greek, which means ‘be joyful’—the New Testament begins," he said "We could say that the first word of the New Testament is ‘be joyful,’ ‘be happy,’ in other words, ‘joy.’"

(Pope Benedict XVI)

The Word was made Flesh and dwelt amongst us.
FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine would like to thank everyone for their contributions, support, enthusiasm and commitment to the apostolate. On many occasions the CCD is thanked for its work, but my view is that we owe all our catechists a BIG THANK YOU for if it weren’t for our 2000 catechists then this organisation would cease to exist.

The year has been eventful and looking back at the year we seem to have achieved so much and lost track of time in the process. I would like to pay a tribute to Dr Charles Hill who for many years supported the work of the CCD and was inspirational. Dr Hill spent many hours teaching and forming our catechists in the Catechist Ministry Certificate and when I decided to teach some of his courses, upon learning of his illness and his passing, I felt very inept in filling the shoes of a giant in the area of Catechist Ministry. My fond memories of Dr Hill are seeing this humble intellectual giant sitting in the corner of the CCD area eating his lunch. Dr Hill is and will certainly be missed. Replacing him is no easy task. May his soul forever rest in the peace of Christ!

I would like to thank all contributors and attendees at the May Christ Our Light And Life forum. The forum was a real eye opener and as a result of the feedback the CCD has set and instigated some obvious alterations to the look, layout and minor content changes. The program is in its infancy and I appreciate the patience shown by many of the catechists across the Archdiocese of Sydney and Parramatta. No program is flawless and we do not hide behind these flaws. Over time the program will continue to receive modifications until the program is at a standard to which we aim for. I see and have experienced both teaching and receiving feedback on the program the merits it can and will achieve.

In conjunction with the Faith Education Officers I would see it beneficial to produce in 2008 onwards a lesson preparation program to assist catechists in lesson preparation and facilitation.

One of the major highlights of 2007 has by far been the Annual Catechist Mass celebrated on Sunday 16 September at St Mary’s Cathedral. During the Mass 23 catechists who have given 40 years of service were acknowledged through the newly instated Cardinal Gilroy Award. It was also an opportunity to celebrate 50 Years as an establishment and finally we were privileged to have with us two former directors Peter Ivers who had flown from Queensland with his wife Bernice Ivers to share this event with the catechists and Anthony Cleary who holds the role of Director of Religious Education and Evangelisation for the Catholic Education Office of Sydney. A special thank you to Peter and Anthony for their significant contributions to the CCD over the past decade.

We were also privileged to have His Eminence George Cardinal Pell preside over the Mass and hand the awards to the 120 awardees. The event was attended by some 800 catechists, their family, friends and supporters. We were also honoured and grateful to have fourteen parish priests concelebrate the Mass. This demonstrates the tremendous support that the parish priests of the Archdiocese of Sydney have towards the catechetical apostolate. Many parish priests would have loved to have been present if not for prior commitments at their respective parishes.

The most significant of the awards given during the Annual Mass was the Cardinal Gilroy Award, for 40 years of service. Recipients of this award were—Bankstown: Margaret Medhurst, May Mitchell, Patricia Weinert, Doreen Quinn, Betty Brayshaw, Dianne McGrath, Noeline Byron, Doreen Moore; City: Maureen Power, Nina Mary Walk; Concord: Clare Mary Jenkins, Moya Phillips, Merryl Foster; Sutherland-St. George: Imelda Logue, Elsie Mary (Meg) Campbell, Margaret Spratt, Patricia Thompson; Western: Patricia Percival, Fr. Pat Hurley, Margaret Collimore, Beverley Hickey, Pauline McNuff, Fr. Kevin Spillane.

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all our awardees and the staff for their hard work and dedication especially Therese Touma Executive Assistant for her organisation, Mary Carolan FEO City and the City Area catechists for their efforts. We were also graced with the beautiful voices of the Indonesian choir—a special thank you to them and to the caterers for their service and providing some fine, quality, fresh food.
We have finally arrived at the end of another year and we say goodbye to 2007 and a warm welcome to 2008. We also arrive at the preparation for the coming of the Saviour of the world. This is our message, this is what we elude to, this is what the program aims to bring to the 25,000 primary children in our public school system.

Let me leave you with a little reflection. 2008 is when the whole world converges on Sydney to celebrate World Youth Day and when we look at the children that we are shaping. Then we realise that they are the future and we pray that the enthusiasm that will be generated with the presence of youth from overseas, domestically and locally in Australia will infect our own disposition to be like children as our Lord so deeply loved and wanted our hearts to be like when he said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ (Matthew 18:3-4)

Let us reflect that Christmas brings a renewal of heart, mind, body and soul. Let us think about starting this Christmas with a new attitude, because if our preparation for Christmas is filled with sacrifices, fasting, abstinence, prayer and our lives are not renewed, these become all worthless exercises.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer: that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour’s birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A peaceful and spirit filled Christmas to all our Catechists, their families, friends and to the students and their families. I hope to see you all in 2008 when we do it all again. Peace of Christ!

Robert Milan
General Manager
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au/bookstore
Dear Catechists

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to say how extremely honoured I am to have been selected as your new Faith Education Officer. With God’s guidance, I hope to be able to contribute to the mission of the CCD, which is to provide the religious education and Catholic formation children of public schools need. Secondly, I would like to thank Josephine Elias for her dedication in the past and wish her all the best for her future.

Congratulations to those who received awards at the Annual Catechist Mass. It was an event that demonstrated the immensity of the role of catechists, the commitment it requires and most importantly, the service it renders our Church. Being there was an incredible inspiration to me and to others who attended. The anticipation I felt for my new role as Faith Education Officer was renewed and enlivened and my admiration for the catechetical mission heightened. It is events such as these that remind us of the joyful reality of the Holy Spirit always at work in our Church.

Having been a teacher myself for almost 10 years, and having taught Catholics and non-Catholics alike, I have come to discover the importance of constancy and conviction in education. These qualities become all the more pertinent when educating in the faith. The catechists at the Mass, especially those receiving their 40 years awards revealed this in a concrete way, for without those two qualities, how is the perpetuation of this mission even possible?

As the General Directory for Catechesis reminds us, to be able to teach and reflect the Faith, one must be able to live the Faith. During my time with the CCD, I hope to be able to assist with your ongoing formation in the Catholic faith. Of course, this will not only involve courses educating in knowledge of the faith, but also activities and events where the focus is on prayer and spiritual formation.

October 19 will see the start of the Advanced Accreditation Course for Catechists, Fridays from 9.30am to 1.30pm at St Christopher’s Parish, Panania.

A Spirituality day has been organised for the 7 December, Friday from 9am – 2pm, also at St Christopher’s Parish.

Of course, other activities or inservices may be organised as the need arises.

I leave you with a small prayer which was said daily by Blessed Mother Teresa;

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.

Claudia Sadaka
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: claudia.sadaka@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Korean Awardees from Silverwater parish who received the Archdiocesan Accreditation Certificate.
Dear Catechists,

Term 4 already! Congratulations to all those who received awards and recognition at the Annual Catechist Mass. Thank you to all those involved on the day helping as ushers, readers, in the choir and offertory procession and the many other helping hands before and after the Mass that contributed to such a smooth and auspicious occasion.

It has been a wonderful year and I feel so grateful to be working with such inspiring and generous people.

My personal thanks to all who participated in the activities held in Term Three. The Catechist Retreat Day given by Fr Jerzy on the Feast of the Assumption was appreciated by all present. Fr Jerzy’s warm hospitality and support for the catechist apostolate made the day a great success. We are most grateful to Fr Jerzy and all the priests who support the catechists in so many ways.

The catechist in-service day, held at Marrickville in July, was another fruitful occasion. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank Br Julian who is always so willing to share his gifts and talents with us. The inspiration he gives through his practical demonstrations is a great help to all.

Refining of the curriculum is underway and the CCD hopes to have a revised and fresh looking Student Activity Book ready for each year group in 2008. Thanks to all those who have given suggestions and feedback – all your contributions are invaluable.

WYD preparations are now in full swing. Here at Polding Centre we are beginning to see the arrival of volunteers and other important people, involved in this major event. The excitement is tangible. School visits are continuing and I have enjoyed visiting the schools in all the different areas and meeting the catechists. I am continuously impressed by the interest and enthusiasm of the students. To the credit of their catechists they have always been most polite and well-informed about their Faith. I look forward to many more visits to schools especially as WYD draws closer and the WYD Cross and Icon return to Sydney.

This year has seen the introduction of the monthly newsletter ‘Light and Life’. Thanks to all those who have contributed to it in any way. I encourage all to keep sending in articles, questions or requests.

As the year draws to a close I wish all a happy and holy Christmas and look forward to meeting many more of you in the days and weeks ahead.

Mary Carolan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: mary.carolan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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Spiritual thought:

There is one ONLY THING to do here below: to love Jesus, to win souls for Him so that He may be loved. Let us seize with jealous care every least opportunity of self-sacrifice. Let us refuse Him nothing -

He does so want our love!

St Therese of Lisieux
Greetings to all catechists in the Concord Area!

I can hardly believe that the year is coming to an end. Term 3 was possibly the busiest term of the year (at least for me) but Term 4 promises to be full of events and courses as well. But before moving on to that, let’s recap Term 3.

Possibly the most rewarding moment of the term was watching my catechists receive their awards at our Annual Mass. It was a wonderful experience seeing six of my catechists complete the **Catechist Accreditation Certificate**. We began early in the year with our Basic Accreditation and completed our Intermediate and Advanced in July and August. I found that a close bond was formed between myself and this small group as we learned about our faith together. It was a real blessing to participate in this sharing of knowledge and life experiences, and to observe how, over time, each of my catechists opened up and contributed wholeheartedly to the course.

I found this experience repeated in the Catechist Ministry Course I ran in August on Saint Paul. Nine catechists attended this course and I was overwhelmed with their response to the material, both in class and in their written work. What I find most rewarding is teaching such adult catechists who genuinely desire to know more about their faith and give all of themselves to the learning process. I feel blessed to be able to perform the role of teacher (although I find I am the one learning from my catechists!).

Apart from the courses run, **Term 3 kept our coordinators busy chasing annual statistics (!) and attending our bi-annual Catechist Coordinator’s Meeting in North Ryde. The venue was a bit different this year, and I think the tried and tested venue of Polding Centre (where we held our February meeting) might have been more accessible to most coordinators. So next year we will go back to holding our meetings in the city.**

Term 4 is full of exiting events. The first is our **Catechist Gathering at Lidcombe Catholic Club on October 15.** We will have Sally Garman speaking to us about ‘Godly Play’, a teaching method similar to the Montessori approach.

Then follows our **Intensive Basic Accreditation Course** to be held at Lane Cove (see page 16). This will be the last Basic Course of the year for our area, and is suitable for those who – for work related reasons or other commitments – cannot make it to the six consecutive sessions we usually run. I encourage my catechists to make it to the latter sessions, because they are more in depth, but the Intensive mode is there for those who genuinely cannot do so.

Our **Spirituality Day** will likewise be held at **St Michael’s, Lane Cove.** I have sent a letter out to all Coordinator’s about this day in advance of the Term 4 Newsletter in order to give all catechists sufficient notice. The Spirituality Day gives us a chance to prayerfully reflect together on our mission as catechists. It will begin at **10am** and finish at **2pm.** Mass will be included.

And finally, I am off to get married at the end of November (as most of you know) so please keep me in your prayers! There’s so much involved in preparing for a wedding that it really boggles my mind! I will be away until the New Year, but we will get straight into things in 2008, hopefully beginning with an Intermediate Accreditation Course for those who missed out this year (See page 17). Take care and God bless!

Ruth Sheridan
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9390 5122 Fax 9283 5146
Email: ruth.sheridan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Once again we are up to the last term in the year and it only seems such a short time ago the year started. This year there have been a number of catechists completing both the Basic and the Intermediate courses. At the Annual Mass thirteen Sutherland St George area catechists who completed the Advanced Course were presented with their Catechist Accreditation Certificate. We had seven people receive a Papal Blessing for twenty years. including a father and daughter combination – well done Norm and Margaret. Three of our catechists received a Cardinal Freeman medal for twenty five years service. A special congratulations goes to Pat, Meg, Mel and Peg who received the inaugural Cardinal Gilroy Award for forty years catechetical service.

During Term 3 the Teaching Strategies module of the Catechist Ministry Certificate course was held at the CCD Centre at Miranda. Over the five days of the course participants explored a range of teaching strategies, including creative ways of both reinforcing and recalling lesson material and how to choose words wisely when correcting a distracted student. Catechists were given an observation exercise where they critically reviewed a teaching DVD. I would encourage any catechist who has completed the Advanced Accreditation Course to start the CMC course.

Throughout history the Church has always presumed that religious education was a life long process. All the faithful were taught through sermons, travelling preachers, catechumenates, and mystery and morality plays. Only a small part of the population received formal religious education. Over the last hundred years schools have been set up for the education of all children. In Australia this saw both secular and religious education become part of the classroom program.

Parish, school, parents, children, catechists and the CCD. These are all stakeholders in a partnership that comes together to teach Special Religious Education (SRE) to Catholic children who attend government schools. CCD Sydney statistics show there are over 25,000 Catholic students attending government primary schools in the Sydney Archdiocese. At some time during their primary school years a large percentage of these students will receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Anne Iffland, from Gymea coordinated a ‘bumper crop’ of 51 government school students for the First Eucharist program at St Catherine Laboure parish. Pictured are some of the parents who, together with their children, gathered each Sunday morning at 8.15 am to prepare for their children’s First Eucharist. During this preparation we surveyed these parents about the ‘take home’ sheets from Christ Our Light and Life and discovered the majority of parents had seen these sheets.

Please check with your coordinator – often the last lesson for the year is a lot earlier than you expect. Allow time to get those Advent and Christmas lessons ready (and start preparing for 2008). Those who attended Br Julian’s workshop were given a boost of enthusiasm for this task. Hopefully some of you will attend the Catechist Gathering at Lidcombe on 15 October.

Term 4 is often the time parishes start recruiting for the next year. Each coordinator should have a recruitment package for this purpose. Please contact me if you need help in this area. Once again I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me during the year. I hope you all have an enjoyable term and a happy and holy Christmas

This term
- a Basic Accreditation Course will be held on Mondays at Miranda CCD office starting on 22 October
- an Advanced Accreditation Course will be held on Fridays at Miranda CCD centre starting on 19 October. Please feel free to do these as a refresher course if you have the time available

Denise Humphreys
Faith Education Officer
Tel: 9524 6400
email: denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Greetings!

Welcome to Term 4!

The Lord has called you; chosen you to be his witness this year and I thank you for your generosity, commitment and service. The front lines of evangelisation can be very difficult, but be assured His work is never in vain. It is through your self giving, that the truth has been placed on the hearts of all our students.

In Term 3, we held a Basic Accreditation Course. We had a great time and we were all sad to see the course end. For all those interested I will be presenting an Intermediate Accreditation Course in Term 4. (See page 16).

Special thanks to Maureen Wright, Catechist Coordinator at St Francis Xavier Parish, Lurnea, who organised an Intensive Intermediate Accreditation Course in Term 3. I'm looking forward to seeing you all, plus new and old faces at our Advanced Accreditation Course in Term 4. (See page 16)

With all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, you might like to attend a Spirituality Day to prepare yourself for His coming. It will be a time to receive and allow the Lord to speak gently to your heart. It will be held on the feast day of St Andrew the Apostle, Friday 30 November 2007. More information will be given to your Coordinators in the next few weeks. Friends and family are also welcome. Please RSVP by Friday 23 November, 2007 on 9390 5122.

If you are looking for ideas on Advent and Christmas lessons, Br Julian Quinlan’ s materials might be useful. He gave a terrific workshop on Advent at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Mt Pritchard. I think most Catechists who attended were inspired and gained some new ideas. Thank you Br Julian for sharing your gifts and making yourself available to us. Toni Whitfield also excelled herself displaying a beautiful Morning Tea and Lunch.

With classes starting again next year, it can be quite stressful for Coordinators to place classes with Catechists. If you know of somebody who would be a great Catechist, please feel free to give them a friendly nudge and encouragement.

As we draw near to the close of the year, may we proclaim with St Paul, “I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish.”

As we remember the gift of the Word become flesh, let us rejoice and open our hearts for His coming.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Pope John Paul II’s childhood church where he was baptised. After his mother died, his father took him there and consecrated him to the Virgin Mary. Hence, his motto - Totus Tuus (Mary, I am Totally Yours).
In the past month I was sent on a mission, a mission that I was eagerly anticipating. I was sent to participate in the International Congress for the New Evangelisation (ICNE) in Budapest, Hungary.

The ICNE was founded by the Emmanuel Community under the leadership of four Cardinals of Europe’s Capitals - Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Brussels.

It developed from an awareness that people seemed to be losing their inner peace and harmony. Even in their closest surroundings, more and more people were losing their spiritual background. John Paul II was very aware of this and called for a “New Evangelisation”.

The ICNE consists of a congress with an average of 2000 international visitors, missionary programs in the parishes and evangelisation programs throughout the streets and central city places. The entire city comes alive and can be compared somewhat to an "Adult WYD".

There were many , many fruits and conversions from the week. A young female satanist received prayer from a nun and gave her heart to Jesus, a woman on the bus saw a “God Loves You” sign and enjoyed it so much that she stayed on the bus so that she could see it again. The director of a shopping centre attended a youth festival and said he’ll “take another look at the faith - there is something good here”.

Along with this, 15,000 people took part in a torch light procession and celebrated Mass on Gellert Hill. Remembering that only a few years ago people would have been imprisoned for this sort of event.

The Congress itself presented many great talks and speakers. I was especially touched by three priests who gave their testimony on life during Communism.

Fr Placid Olofsson, 91 Years old. A man full of joy and excitement was condemned for 10 years of forced labour in the Gulags for the false charge of inciting murder. Being a priest they “awarded” him with the special gift of cleaning the corridors and toilets.

One day, a Russian guard was singing and Fr Placid who felt inspired by the Holy Spirit started singing a song too. The next day, another guard started singing, again being prompted by the Holy Spirit courageously started singing. This continued for a while, then Fr Placid realised the Russians couldn’t understand Hungarian so he boldly started talking to the others prisoners in the form of a song to evangelise them. “I am a Catholic priest, be strong”, he continued to sing as many of his audience were the men on death row. "Be not afraid. If you want to confess your sins, I will give you absolution."

I marveled at this mans courage, joy and even in this horrendous place he still had a great desire to save souls, spread the Gospel, to the point of risking his own life.

As time passed by there were many who lost hope in life outside the Gulag. So he came up with four rules of survival, which I feel are still valid for today.

1. No Complaining — Don’t make a drama out of suffering, this weakens you.
2. Look for small joys — Don’t look for suffering, they will come
3. Positive attitude — Never see yourself as the inferior or the little guy
4. Faith in God — If you have something to hang on to, you have more chance to survive.

This was our faith in action. God is in the midst of hardship, encouraging them not to give up hope. The courage of these men and women really left me with a deep impression. The courage that God gives each one of us if we open our hearts to him.

In today’s western world, are we not called to be the modern day Fr Placids. Are we too, not in a world that knows much despair? Do we not see the gift of life seen as worthless, to the point of being tested on, abused, ridiculed?

In my time on this pilgrimage I also had a chance to visit Poland. Another country that suffered under the hardship of Communism. I saw the fruits of the persecution in the blood of brave men and women who died for their faith, the triumph of Jesus.

At the Shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa a city which has been attacked many times, everybody goes to Mass. It is filled with babies, children, youth, adults, married people, single people, nuns, priests, and elderly. There are 120 orders of nuns in Poland. In this city of a population of 240,000 there are 70 orders of nuns with no shortage of vocations!

In visiting these two ex-communist counties I was amazed by their witness of faith. We are called to be courageous, bold, because our hope and future is secure. A call by one of the European Cardinals said

"We are not called to be Goldfish content in our own little, safe world but to be courageous trout who swim against the current".

If true joy comes in following the Commandments, may we all take up this challenge in building a new civilisation of love, standing firm upon the Word.

“Be courageous, for I have conquered the world”.

Teresa Culjak
Faith Education Officer
ANNUAL
CATECHIST
MASS 2007
Teaching Students To Pray

—notes from Intensive Course with Gerard O’Shea

Prayer And The Young Child

Children need space to interiorize prayer, and then only on occasion do they verbalise prayer.

- Then it is very simple
- They take time to enjoy the gift of being in God’s presence, and then they say thanks.
- The prayer of the young child is thanks; not petition.

The whole body is part of the young child’s response in prayer.

- Very young children pray through bodily movement and silence.
- Silence is very attractive to them and it tends to be a luxury these days in our hectic lifestyles.

Prayer is an inner disposition that turns the heart to God in openness so as to listen and respond to the presence of love.

Movement and practical life exercises help children to pray and develop quiet, peaceful ways of movement. These lead to bodily control and readiness for prayer. Our presence as a teacher creates a sense of mystery for the child and an atmosphere of respect.

- We want to create an atmosphere that causes prayer to rise spontaneously.
- Silence is an essential element to help prayer arise.
- The young child enjoys a natural deep silence that is not enforced.
- Reflective silence is the result of much prayer.
- Listening to the Word of God spontaneously becomes prayer.
- The richer the proclamation, the better the response.

- We make the proclamation richer by deepening our own understanding of the text.
- Scripture should nourish our own prayer as a teacher
- We should pray over the text and proclamation before it is shared.
- The Ignatian exercises teach us to look throughout the day for things to be grateful for and in our gratitude we turn our praise and thanks into prayer.
- We come with a grateful heart just to be in God’s presence.

Different Types of Prayer

- Verse from the psalms that reflect joy, e.g. God is good (simple and joyful, said over and over again.)
- Be careful not to overwhelm children with too many words.
- Picture clues on the cards and sung prayers can be useful starting points for meditation.
- Traditional Prayers can be introduced, small phrases at a time, e.g. ‘Thy Kingdom come….’ ‘Thanks be to God’
- Words from prophecies: Prince of Peace, Christ our Light
- Just as we want to introduce children to good literature, we introduce good, rich images, but only a little at a time.

Prayer corner:

- 3-D objects
- Liturgical colours
- Images (crucifix)
- Bible (a real and nicely presented one)
- Candle (lit only when scripture is being read)
- Prayer space belongs to the child, so let them choose the flowers, the prayer card, the candles and cloth etc.
- Such a prayer space can be set up at home
- Share your own prayer practice in a slow and deliberate manner.

Prayer and the Older Child

Once the children leave infancy and have understood that their prayer is directed to a person, it can take on more formal categories, alongside the more spontaneous kind. Be aware that not all children will be drawn by the same kinds of prayer, and so a variety of opportunities should be provided, not too long. Formula prayers are good as they are like small talk that leads into more reflective prayer.

Never make students learn prayers for a test.

- Teach the prayers of the Mass a little at a time e.g. The first verse of the Gloria, part of the Creed, “peace be with you” etc.
- These traditional prayers of the Church should not be “memorised” as an intellectual activity. The prayers should be used repeatedly until the students have committed them to memory in a non pressured way.
- Students should never be forced to make their prayer public without their consent. Do not ask them to share something which is very personal – between themselves and God.

In the context of a Catholic school, opportunities for prayer should be integrated into the whole day, e.g. before and after recess, the Angelus at midday etc. These practices help them see themselves as part of a community. Apart from a more lengthy session at the beginning of the day, pausing for prayer should be brief.

The opportunity for personal prayer should be made available as part of the daily round of self-organised activities in the modern student’s daily routine.
Liturgy is the authentic encounter with Christ. We have a subjective encounter with Christ through the Eucharist and all the sacraments. To teach about the sacraments we need to examine the Liturgy closely ourselves and explain it to the students. The following approach has been developed as a result of closely observing children to see what they are most able and ready to understand.

The Mass

Show students the actual items used in the Mass.

Explain the Mass, by looking at the four key points in the following order. (You may spend one or two lessons on each part)

1 Describe what happened at the Last Supper. Emphasise the words of consecration. Key words “Do this in memory of Me” Show them a chalice, paten, corporal, altar cloth etc. Light the candles and read the account of the Last Supper from the Bible. Give them a sheet with pictures of the items used at Mass and found on the sanctuary e.g. tabernacle, altar etc. Explain each and use the correct name for each. Ask them to match the pictures with the definitions.

2 Epiclesis – make a dove with hands and show the Holy Spirit coming over the gifts. Have a statue of Mary and tell the account of the Annunciation when Mary says “How shall this come about?” “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you shall conceive a child. He will be called Emmanuel which means ‘God With Us.’”

Ask students to observe what the priest does at Mass. Mention that the priest spreads his hands and says the prayer over the gifts – aloud or silently.

3 Mingling of the water and wine. It is important to emphasise to the child that they are involved in the Mass too. If you have cruets available, demonstrate the pouring of the water and wine into a chalice. Say the words “By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.” Emphasise to the students the large amount of wine which will become the blood of Christ and the small drops of water which represent us. Prompt their understanding by asking “Why is there a lot of wine and only a little water? Can we separate the water and wine again?”

4 Doxology – Words “Through Him. With Him, In Him ...” Explain the Doxology. It is said by the priest only and comes at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. It is the great conclusion to the most important part of the Mass. We all say “Amen”. This “Amen” means we agree and we make the whole Eucharistic prayer our own.

After explaining these four key points in the Mass over a number of lessons the students will be ready to internalize what they have heard. Below is a student activity that could be given to students from year three to six.

Match the Item of the Mass with the correct word shown below

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Altar Lectern Tabernacle Chalice

Candleholders with candles Crucifix Ciborium Paten
History of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine—50 Years Young

CROSSWORD NUMBER 4

Across

1. An award given to those who have given 20 years of service (9,8) ____________
   __________.

4. A program taught in the public schools by catechist teachers. (3,3,6) ______ ______
   __________.

7. An acronym of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (1,1,1) ______.

8. An award given to those who have given 25 years of service (7) ____________

10. Former director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine from the late 90’s to early 2000’s
    (5,5) ____________ ____________.

11. An early form of established teaching indicates a road journey (5,8) ______
    ________

Down

1. Succeeded 10 across (7,6) ______ ______
   ________.

2. An acronym of Special Religious Education (1,1,1) ______.

3. An early CCD director probably the first ever (5,4) ______ ________.

5. Regarded as the first Cardinal to summon the establishment of the CCD (6) ________

6. An order of nuns that follow the way of St Therese (10) ____________.

9. A council responsible for the establishment of the CCD in the 16th Century (5) ________

10. A 20th century Pope who wrote some 21 documents on the CCD ________.
Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

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

From 10:30am to 1:30pm

Guest speakers include:
- Dr Gabby Thomson, St Vincent’s Hospital
  “Adult Stem Cell Research”
- Sally Garman “Godly play”

Other Talks will include:
- Teaching strategies and classroom management
- World Youth day update and the CCD Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon

Thursday 20 March 2008

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.

News from our High Schools

- At the end of last term we held a meeting at Miranda CCD centre for catechists who teach in our high schools. The very lively group pictured attended. They teach at Endeavour, Caringbah, Cronulla, Wooloware, Sylvania, Kogarah, Janalli, Kirrawee, Smithfield and Mosman high schools.
- The catechists spoke highly of the five seminarians who are also teaching SRE in our high schools this year.
- This meeting was a good opportunity for the catechists to meet each other and brush up on lesson preparation and teaching strategies. Each catechist looked at a unit of work and examined teaching strategies, prayer and suggested student activities. Claudia, Bankstown Faith Education Officer also spoke about her experiences in high schools.
- Dr Ullita Nair shared how she teaches prayer meditation in the SRE class and mentioned how pleased she was to discover one of the parents of a student at her parish meditation session. The mum mentioned she came to the meditation group because her son had told her how great this was in his SRE class.
- The catechists were also very interested in Corrine’s WYD presentation. Corrine is the Shire WYD coordinator. Corrine also informed the catechists of her work with parish youth groups. Hopefully the catechists left feeling inspired for the next term.
**Schedule of Offerings 2007**  
**Cathechist Ministry Certificate**  
**Term 4**

### Basic Accreditation

**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,  
Longueville Road, Lane Cove  
**Mondays: 9am to 3pm**  
Oct 22, 29

### Intermediate Accreditation

**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

### Advanced Accreditation

**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, Danceyville  
**Fridays: 10am-1pm**  
Oct 19, 26  Nov 2, 9, 16

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

### Spirituality Days

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

**Concord Area– 19 October**  
**Friday 9am-2pm**  
St Michael’s Parish hall,  
Dorrit Street, Lane Cove  
(Including Mass and talks)

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**NB:** Catechist Ministry Courses require a minimum of 10 students to run. Bookings two weeks in advance essential.
### Basic Accreditation

**City Area**
- St Brigid’s Parish
  - 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville
  - **Thursdays: 10am to 2pm**
  - February 21, 28, March 6, 13

- Sutherland–St George Area
  - CCD Centre
    - 50 Kiora Road, Miranda
  - **Mondays: 10:00am to 1:00pm**
  - February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7

**Intermediate Accreditation**

**Concord Area**
- St Michael’s Parish
  - Longueville Road, Lane Cove
  - **Fridays 10am to 2pm**
  - February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March 7

**Bankstown Area**
- St Mary Queen of Heaven Parish
  - 15 Georges Crescent, Georges Hall
  - **Tuesdays: 10:00am to 12 noon**
  - February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 27, April 1, 8, 15, 22

**Orientation Meetings**

**Bankstown Area**
- **- Tuesday 5 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - Christ The King Parish
    - 589 Hume Highway, Yagoona

- **- Tuesday 12 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Crescent, Georges Hall

**City Area**
- **- Wednesday 13 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - St Michael’s Parish
    - 29 Banks Avenue, Daceyville

- **- Thursday 14 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - St Brigid’s Parish
    - 392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville

**Concord Area**
- **- Monday 18 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - Holy Spirit Parish Hall
    - Cox’s Road, North Ryde

- **- Tuesday 19 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - Holy Innocents Parish
    - Cheltenham Road, Croydon

**Sutherland - St George Area**
- **- Wednesday 6 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - CCD Centre
    - Kiora Road, Miranda

- **- Monday 11 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - St Thomas More
    - 298 Bay Street, Brighton Le Sands

**Western Area**
- **- Tuesday 12 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish
    - 230 Humphries Road, Mt Pritchard

**Western Area**
- **- Wednesday 13 February**
  - 10am - 12 noon
  - St Gertrude’s Catholic Church
    - Justin Street, Smithfield
Our consumer society has conditioned us to ask ourselves such things, as “What do I get out of it? What is in it for me?” Rather than fight this mentality, why not use it in our efforts to help people have a renewed interest in Confession? The best way to help people appreciate this sacrament is to elucidate the many benefits we receive from it. To that end, this book focuses upon 25 striking things Confession affords. This positive approach is a welcome alternative to viewing this sacrament simply in relation to sin. It is informative and entertaining as it is illustrated with interesting analogies, true stories, Church teaching, quotes from the saints and answers to popular questions. The complete and Abridged Edition have been popular to date and both are available in store!
WORLD YOUTH DAY RESOURCES

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10 Christmas Commandments

1. You shall not leave ‘Christ’ out of Christmas, making it ‘Xmas.’ To some, ‘X’ is unknown.

2. You shall prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.

3. You shall not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.

4. You shall not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.

5. You shall give yourself with your gift. This will increase its value a hundred fold, and the one who receives it shall treasure it forever.

The following item appeared in a church newsletter and contains some good advice that will help us keep selfishness in check this Christmas:

6. You shall not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.

7. You shall not neglect the needy. Share your blessings with many who will go hungry and cold if you are generous.

8. You shall not neglect your church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.

9. You shall be as a little child. Not until you become in spirit as a little one are you ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

10. You shall give your heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of your Christmas list.

Anyone keeping these commandments is sure to have a blessed Christmas.