



CONNECTIONS

Diocese of Broken Bay

Volume 10 Issue 1

CCD NEWSLETTER

Term One 2005

PROCLAIM

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DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

CATECHIST SUNDAY 2005

FEBRUARY 6

The title catechist is used in the Catholic tradition to describe a special teaching role in the local parish community. The vocation of the catechist comes from the sacrament of Baptism (GDC #231).

The catechist is essentially a mediator facilitating communication between the people and the mystery of God, between the subjects themselves, as well as with the community. (GDC# 156)

Each year local parish communities are invited to celebrate the contribution made by catechists on Diocesan Catechist Sunday.

Congregation for the Clergy (1997) *General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)*



*You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light for the world. . . Let your light shine before others so that they may see your goods works
Mt 5:13 -16*



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SEEK UNITY

EDUCATE

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CCD WEBSITE

<http://www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/ccd>

DIARY DATES

A full 2005 CCD Calendar is enclosed in this edition of *Connections*.

See 'Noticeboard' on page 10 for further details of major Training and Formation events of the year.

Jan

4-17	CCD OFFICES CLOSED		
25	Executive Meeting	9:30am-4pm	Thornleigh
27	Executive Meeting	9:30am-4pm	Thornleigh
28	TERM 1 COMMENCES		
	Staff Meeting	10am-2pm	Thornleigh
31	MANLY WARRINGAH		
	Parish Coordinators (Combined) Meeting		Narrabeen
	10am-12:30pm		

Feb

1	NORTHERN REGION		Thornleigh
	Parish Coordinators (Combined) Meeting		
	10am-12:30pm		
2	CENTRAL COAST		
	Parish Coordinators (Combined) Meeting		The Entrance
	1pm-3pm		
4	Executive Meeting	9:30am-4pm	Thornleigh

6 **DIOCESAN CATECHIST SUNDAY**

9 ASH WEDNESDAY

Mar

2	MANLY WARRINGAH Level 1 Commences	12:15pm -2:45pm	Narrabeen
4	NORTHERN REGION Level 1 Commences	9:15am-2:45pm	Willoughby
7	Executive Meeting	9:30am-4pm	Thornleigh
10	CENTRAL COAST Level 1 Commences	9:15am-2:45pm	Gosford
			Thornleigh
15	CCD ADVISORY COUNCIL	5pm-7pm	
18	DIOCESAN PARISH COORDINATORS' WORKSHOP	8:30am-4pm	Normanhurst
25	GOOD FRIDAY		
27	EASTER SUNDAY		

Apr

4	CCD Executive Meeting	9:30am-4pm	Narrabeen
8	NORTHERN REGION		
	Parish Coordinators (Primary)	9:30am-12pm	Thornleigh
	TERM 1 CONCLUDES		
11-15	CCD OFFICES CLOSED		
26	TERM 2 COMMENCES		

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The celebration of Catechist Sunday at the beginning of our teaching year provides us with an opportunity to reflect of the nature of this ministry to the Catholic children in State schools and our own personal journey as ministers, catechists. Our ministry is truly a *Transformational Ministry* – it is a program that can and does change lives, calling all involved to conversion. As lessons are prepared this is what we hope will happen. Most of the time we need to prayerfully reflect on our work to recognise the difference we are, in fact, making.

There are many opportunities in the CCD calendar this year (separate enclosure) for ongoing training and formation, I would urge you to participate in some of these and experience the transformation and growth possible from these experiences.

Enjoy reading this edition of *Connections* – I have enjoyed preparing it for you!

Alan Mance

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND NEW DIRECTIONS

John Donnelly (Regional Coordinator: Central Coast (Gosford) 2003 – 2004) has been appointed Special Project Officer: SRE Curriculum for a two-year period commencing Monday 24 January. In this role John will be responsible for management and guidance of the processes of consultation, professional development, piloting and curriculum resource development for the Broken Bay SRE Curriculum Project 2005 –2007.



*John and Alison
outside the Regional
Office at Gosford*

Alison Newell has been appointed a Regional Coordinator: Central Coast (Gosford) replacing John in this role for a two year period. Alison has been employed as Sacramental / CCD and children's liturgy Coordinator in Toukley parish for the past three years. She brings to the CCD executive this parish based experience and wider skills from business and management. She commenced on Thursday 2 December 2004.

The *Curriculum Project* will result in the provision of a Catholic Religious Education Program for Catholic children attending State schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay. It aims to:

- Provide K – 12 Curriculum for Religious Education for Catholic children in State schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay
- Provide a core Religious Education experience through a common core Religious Education Curriculum for every Catholic student in the Diocese of Broken Bay
- Produce a curriculum relevant to the context in which it will be used and an understanding of Catholic students attending State schools, their families and the SRE teachers.
- Develop a companion Family resource to support parental involvement in the child's religious education.
- Provide, through the curriculum developed, connections with other Parish-based programs, such as, the Sacramental program, children's liturgy, RCIA.
- Develop a program that may be useful for models of religious education other than SRE lessons in State schools.
- Invite broad consultation inter and intra diocesan in the process of curriculum development.
- Develop a program that also could be used for the Religious Education of Catholic children attending State schools outside the Diocese of Broken Bay

New Style Authorisation Card Issued: 2005/2006

All continuing catechists (SRE teachers) will receive their new Authorisation Card in the first few weeks of Term 1 2005. The light green card forms part of the Diocesan Authorisation Procedure required for all SRE teachers and assistants who teach in the State Schools in their Parish. When you receive your 2005/2006 card you will notice that it is larger. The increase in size has been necessary to include the following details:

1. Additional space to list all schools attended by the cardholder
2. A brief description of the Authorised Curriculum to be used
3. A statement of the 'SRE Teacher's Undertaking'

In signing and dating the 2005/2006 Authorisation Card each volunteer is agreeing to fulfil the responsibilities outlined on the card. Please read all details on the card carefully.

From 2005 new catechists will be given *Provisional Authorisation* for six months during which time they will be required to complete a Basic Accreditation Course consisting of the three core units of the Level One Training and Formation Program (see article on page 6).

All Authorisation Cards will be issued from the Diocesan Office through the Parishes.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS IN STATE SCHOOLS

Children attend the SRE class nominated at the time of enrolment by the parent or guardian. Parents may alter their choice at any time through notification in writing to the school

188 State Schools (Primary and Secondary) with 161 Schools attended - 129 Primary and 32 Secondary

In 2004, 20971 Catholic students were attending State Schools – 16040 received Catholic SRE lessons

CATECHISTS (SRE TEACHERS)

1036 volunteers –
822 catechists (700 Primary and 122 Secondary) and 214 assistants in 2004

All catechists are required to teach the Authorised Curriculum and complete the Diocesan Authorisation procedure – they carry a ‘green card’ that confirms this.



PARISH COORDINATORS



70 Parish Coordinators in 39 Parishes

Inspire, support and direct the catechists in their implementation of classroom programs and organisation of activities beyond the classroom in the spirit of the Parish Pastoral Plan.

PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

Catechetical tasks proper to parish priests are – fostering a sense of common responsibility in the Christian community; promoting and discerning vocations to the service of catechesis; integrating catechetical activity into the program of community evangelisation; securing the bonds between the catechesis of his community and the diocesan pastoral program. . catechesis in a community largely depends on the presence and activity of the priest

#225 *General Directory for Catechesis 1997*



BISHOP DAVID WALKER

The Bishop has primary responsibility for catechesis in the particular Church. . assuming the overall direction for catechesis. . ensures that catechists are adequately prepared for their task. . establishing an articulated, coherent and global program in the Diocese

#222/223 *General Directory for Catechesis 1997*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) in the Diocese of Broken Bay is established by the Bishop of the Diocese to assist in articulating the Mission, Vision and Values of the Confraternity. It assists the Bishop to establish a strategic framework for the CCD that is in accordance with Diocesan Policies.

The collective membership of the Council is composed to maintain a balance across all sections of the Diocesan community and other relevant experts.

CCD Advisory Council Charter November 2004

EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATION

The CCD Executive 2005: CCD Director, Special Project Officer: Curriculum and five Regional Coordinators. The CCD executive meet monthly with principal responsibilities to provide leadership at a local and diocesan level in the ongoing development and management of the Diocesan CCD Ministry; to develop and maintain partnerships with parishes supporting Parish Priests, Parish CCD Coordinators and SRE Teachers in the provision of SRE within their parish; to liaise with other key stakeholders for provision of effective Catholic SRE in State Schools; and to work collaboratively with Diocesan Agencies to promote the CCD Mission within the Diocesan Mission. Five part-time Administration Assistants support them in their work.



FEATURE ARTICLE: 48th International Eucharistic Congress 10 - 17 October 2004

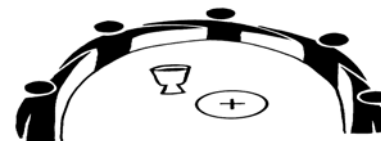
The Eucharistic Year proclaimed by Pope John Paul II began with the 48th International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico on October 10-17, 2004. Forty-one delegates from Australia attended this Congress, led by Archbishop Barry Hickey from Perth.

The theme of the Congress “We want to see your Face, Lord” highlighted the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist Mystery. Thirty-five Cardinals, 250 Bishops, hundreds of Priests from the six continents, and 9,000 delegates from countries other than Mexico were included in the 65,000 who attended the opening Mass.

At a rally attended by over 25,00 young people I was privileged meet a group of musicians and singers who prayed with us for the youth of Australia. The faith and joy and absolute commitment of the young people were an inspiration.

Daily, 20,000 delegates attended Mass, followed by presentations from Cardinals, Bishops, Priests and Lay people on the Eucharistic Faith of each continent, and on the various challenges being faced in each local church.

Archbishop Barry Hickey addressed the Congress on Eucharistic faith in Oceania. He spoke of the shadow of modern secularity that has had the effect of undermining the faith, and of a growing lack of response to and belief in the ‘Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist.’ He encouraged us to have hope, remembering that the Church draws her life from the Eucharist, and that “*a world hungry for spiritual nourishment and the voice of love will be as attracted to Christ’s words as when he first spoke them*”.



On October 14th, 1.5 million people walked 22 City blocks in procession behind the Blessed Eucharist following an open air Mass. The Holy Father was present by satellite from St Peter’s Basilica at the closing Mass in the Jalisco Soccer Stadium. During Benediction, the 85000 participants held a profound silence, and were deeply moved while listening to his homily. When he was too ill to speak, the whole stadium erupted into joyful shouts of encouragement, accompanied by spectacular and colourful Mexican Waves.

Attending the Eucharistic Congress was a rare privilege. The face of Jesus in Mexico is incarnated in a vibrant, living Catholic Church devoted to the practice of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

The catechists of the Diocese of Broken Bay are involved deeply within the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus, and the evangelising mission of the Church. We move with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit carried from the Congress into a deeper communion with the Universal Church. May these words from the Congress find a place in our hearts and fire our hopes and aspirations for our future journey as catechists

“Through the Eucharist we express our incorporation into the Mystery of Christ, and Christ’s Mystical body, to become more deeply identified with Christ, and more committed to the task of evangelising others. The Eucharist is an impulse for evangelisation in this Third Millennium because it is not only its centre, but also the fount from which the evangelising action flows and is moved ahead in the contemporary world.”

(From: *Eucharist, Light and Life of the New Millennium*
Basic text Archdiocese of Guadalajara)

Eulalie O’Keefe
CCD Regional Coordinator Manly Warringah Peninsula Region

For further reading:
*Apostolic Letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay with us Lord)
Published October 2004
*Encyclical Letter *ECCLESIA DE EUCHARISTICA*
(On the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church) 2003



Eulalie O’Keefe (right) with fellow pilgrims outside the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City

FROM THE REGIONS

CENTRAL COAST: GOSFORD

The Empty Crib

Under the guidance of drama teacher, Jodie Connor, Year 9 boys from St Edwards College, East Gosford, prepared and presented a thought provoking skit during Christmas assemblies in Term at Central Coast State Primary schools.

Compare Larry (Ryan Spinks) interviewed an array of interesting guests on his live to air talk show, *Behind the News*. Scripture characters such as John the Baptist (Vaughan Weeks) and Mary the Mother of Jesus (Matt Darch) were joined by Santa (Michael Fraser) and a high-powered businessman (Tom Barkel). Each character offered a different insight as to the significance of the empty crib. The audience was challenged to think beyond the commercialism of Christmas to the message of compassion, which Jesus brought to the world.

The teachers and students at Valley View Primary were delighted with the performance and were impressed with the dedication of the young actors from 'Eddies'. Once again it is great to see the

spirit of community service and the high level of cooperation possible between Catholic Schools and our ministry in State Schools.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of Jodie Connor, and the flexibility of the college to allow these young men to perform at five different schools over a week.

We also acknowledge Rina Wintour who wrote the play and published it in her book *Sacred Celebrations for Advent and Christmas* (Mountjoy Enterprises Brisbane 2001).

John Donnelly Regional Coordinator Central Coast: Gosford



MANLY WARRINGAH PENINSULA

Parish Based Basic Accreditation Course Piloted

Eulalie O'Keefe Regional Coordinator

Twelve Catechists from the Parish of Mary Immaculate and St. Athanasius at Manly recently attended a Parish based training day. These Catechists were the first to experience the new Basic Accreditation Course that is part of the Level One Training and Formation Program. Those who attended were new recruits, experienced SRE teachers and interested parishioners.

Three major topics are covered in this course: *Mission and Ministry* orientates the unique Special Religious Education ministry within the Mission of both the local Church (Diocese of Broken Bay), and the Universal Catholic Church.

The SRE Teacher in the Parish and the School informs catechists about their rights and responsibilities as volunteers from and for their parish in the local State school context. Authorisation procedures and specific support structures that are in place for all Catechists are well explained during this part of the course.



Lesson Planning: Teaching the Authorised Curriculum introduces new recruits to the content and process within the *Joy for Living* Program, and assists teachers, new and experienced, to discover how to use the curriculum document and teacher's manual most effectively when planning their SRE lessons.

The outcome of a day spent together in prayer, discussion and sharing was an effective induction process for new recruits, a strengthening of Parish Community bonds, renewed understanding of the importance of renewal within ministry, and a new enthusiasm for the wonderful work of Special Religious Education.



Toukley catechists at the Open Forum for the Wyong CCD in December

FROM THE REGIONS

Semester Two Regional Reflection Days with Bishop David Walker The Eucharist

... in the Garden

The sense of place is vital to our ability to stop and reflect and the St Francis Assisi Centre at Somersby offers one of the most serene settings for quiet contemplation. Nestled in the middle of rolling farmlands the centre feels like it is miles from everything.

The gardens were in full spring bloom in late October when the Central Coast catechists arrived for their day of reflection with Bishop David. In his wisdom the bishop allowed a great deal of time for silence and thought, encouraging us to wander in the gardens and relax in the sunshine.

Catechists took full advantage of Bishop David's instruction and revelled in the opportunity to discuss their faith with each other as well as the Bishop. He led us carefully down the road of theological learning and spiritual challenge as we explored the mystery of the Eucharist once more.



Somersby



Killara



Terrey Hills

We all travelled away from Somersby renewed and refreshed by days end, our only regret that more of our friends could not have joined us for the day. Perhaps next year we can organise more transport for parish groups and wouldn't it be great to invite a friend who is not a catechist to share in such a wonderful opportunity.

John Donnelly Regional Coordinator Central Coast: Gosford

CENTRAL COAST: GOSFORD

Kariong kids celebrate the Eucharist

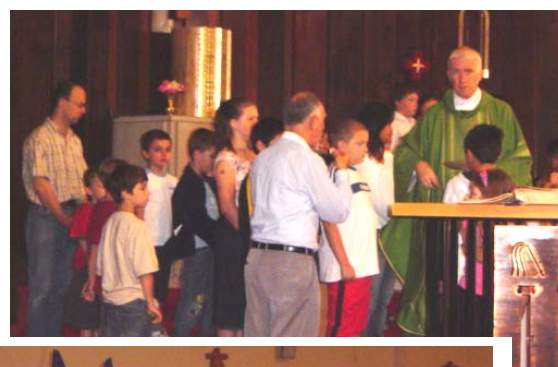
To mark the beginning of the Year of the Eucharist, Gosford Parish Coordinator Laurie Fahy and a team of catechists prepared a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist at Kariong Primary on November 4.

Parish Secretary, Colleen Kirk, produced a booklet, which guided students through the responses. Pastoral Associate, Sr Fabian, and assistant, Carmel Rhodes, transformed the school hall. The catechists prepared the readers and singing. Fr Zygy celebrated the liturgy with gentleness and grace offering guidance to the children at key points during the mass. Teamwork really contributed to a wonderful celebration.

One is reminded on such a day of the many parishioners who contribute quietly each week to this great ministry. I am continually amazed by the spirit of cooperation that exists in our parishes and the number of dedicated employees and volunteers who are called to evangelise.

There is an atmosphere of welcome and community at Kariong Primary and the Eucharist is the most appropriate manner for us to celebrate it. Catholics are a sacramental people and the mass is the core of our psyche. The best way to convey this to our SRE students is via the experience of this central sacrament. Well-done Gosford catechists!

John Donnelly Regional Coordinator Central Coast: Gosford



Epping Parish Mass for State School Children and their families October 2004

Be Prepared . . .

Do you know the School Emergency Procedures?

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How many of us SRE teachers who go into a school or two really know what the school procedures for that school really are? Do we have a copy of the school telephone number close at hand, in case we were delayed in getting there on time? Do we know the name of the person who is in charge of looking after SRE at the school in which we teach? Have we spent time making ourselves familiar with the most direct route to the area where our class would assemble if the alarm bell rang? Perhaps we have made a mental note or perhaps not. Maybe we are relying on the students being more familiar with the way. After all, they are here five days per week and do participate in the emergency evacuation practices.

If we can honestly answer “Yes” to each of the above questions, we are doing very well. But if there is one “no”, a “perhaps” or a “maybe”, then we have some work to do.

O.K. So where are you going to get this information? Most primary schools and some of the high schools have a meeting at the beginning of the year, usually the week before classes begin. At this meeting the **class rolls** and **general school information** is given out along with the **policies and procedures of the school** that the SRE teachers need to know, including the school emergency procedures. If they are not, it is up to us as SRE teachers to ask about them.

If you visit the high schools to take SRE classes, don't be too shy to ask at the office to speak to the SRE co-ordinator and ask for the sort of information that a relief teacher would be given. Many schools have agreed it would be a good idea to give the SRE teachers that same information.

Now the primary teachers are very fortunate as they have in the front of their *Joy for Living*

Teacher's Manuals two pages that need to be copied and filled in each year so that they are up to date with the information. If the school hands out copies then these may be secured in the front of the folder through the use of a plastic sleeve. But don't leave it there. Between the time you receive the information and the first lesson, take it out and read it a few times. Know what the procedures are. When you go to the school, get there early and look at where the assembly areas are and learn the route that the school has mapped out for you.

The secondary SRE teachers are not so fortunate in that in the past they have not received similar pages on which to record this information, but that is about to change. In 2005 your co-ordinators will be given pages to distribute among the secondary SRE teams on which to record this very important information.

To summarise:

- Know your significant school staff members, e.g. principal and deputy, SRE co-ordinator, the librarian/resource person and the office staff;
- Have a copy of the school phone and fax numbers readily accessible in case you are delayed;
- Keep a copy or at least an outline of the school policies and procedures with your teaching manual – this would include evacuation procedures, merit award schemes, classroom management policies etc;
- Finally don't be content just to have it with you. Read it until you are familiar with it and with the layout of the school.

Remember, when we are teaching the children, we are responsible for their behaviour and their safety!

Michael Tebbutt Regional Coordinator: Northern Region

Bits and Bytes: From the Net #1 / 2005 ***Learning and Teaching Styles***

Children learn differently. Catechists (SRE teachers) teach differently. We tend to teach in the same way we like to learn and have been taught. Here are some websites to assess your teaching and learning style and maybe pick up some hints!!!

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>
http://www.cypresshillscollge.sk.ca/virtual_learner.htm
<http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>
<http://www.ldrc.ca/>
http://www.jobsetc.ca/content_pieces.jsp?category_id=326&lang=e
<http://www.learningpaths.org/questionnaires/teachstylequest/teachstylequest.htm>

Religion Teachers Journal 38(3) p27



Planning for success!!

FOR THE CLASSROOM

TERM 1
WEEK 1 Ordinary Catechist Sunday
WEEK 2 Lent Ash Wednesday
WEEK 3 Lent
WEEK 4 Lent
WEEK 5 Lent
WEEK 6 Lent
WEEK 7 Lent St Patrick / St Joseph
WEEK 8 Lent HOLY WEEK
WEEK 9 Easter Easter Sunday
WEEK 10 Easter Annunciation
TERM 2
WEEK 1 Easter Anzac Day
WEEK 2 Easter
WEEK 3 Easter Ascension of the Lord
WEEK 4 Pentecost Sunday Ordinary Time
WEEK 5 Ordinary Trinity Mary, Help of Christians
WEEK 6 Ordinary The Body and Blood of Christ Visitation Sacred Heart
WEEK 7 Ordinary
WEEK 8 Ordinary
WEEK 9 Ordinary
WEEK 10 Ordinary Peter and Paul, Apostles

Teaching Tip #1/2005: Take time to get to know your class

By the time most catechists (SRE teachers) give their first lesson in 2005 Lent will have commenced. Do not be tempted to spend less time on those very important “getting to know you lessons”. Establishing a good relationship with your class in these first lessons will be time well invested for towards the success of your 2005 SRE program.

Getting Started: An idea to try . .

A “book blessing” in the first lesson. Plan to hand students their *Joy for Living* activity book as part of your opening prayer for the year. Give students a chance to see and become familiar with their book. For the next lesson write each student’s name on their book – this will help you to learn their names.

Lent:

Unit 6 from the *Joy for Living* series provides lessons that will assist you teaching Lenten themes helping your class better understand this significant time in the Church year. The theme for this unit for K - 6 is *Healing and Uniting* reminding students to renew their love for God and be reconciled with one another. Unit 7 (Year 1 – 6) of *Joy for Living* gives further information on Church practices and symbols for the season of Lent. 7 –12 lessons and seminars are available from your local CCD office.

NEWS FLASH:

Easter Sunday occurs during Term 1!!!!

Take the opportunity to celebrate Easter with you students this year. The last two weeks of term are Easter season. Why not have an Easter Assembly in Week 9 or 10 – a change of theme from the Holy Week Assembly. Your regional Coordinator has some great ideas for Easter Assemblies – **start planning NOW!!!**

Teaching Tip #2/2005: Planning Ahead

If you have a regular weekly lesson allow for about 25 to 30 lessons in the year to come. Include lessons about the special events in the Church’s year, Marian themes and Saints where appropriate. Make sure you teach some lessons from each of the six units in the *Joy for Living* program.

Regional CCD offices can provide assistance with Lesson planning using the Authorised Curriculum and extra Lessons and Resources that are authorised for use on special occasions.

**Something to Consider:
Responding to the
Tsunami Disaster**

There is no doubt that the impact of the Tsunami disaster and the ‘saturation’ media coverage that followed would have had an effect on the children in our classes for 2005. Children experience loss and grief in similar ways to the adults. This is often not recognised in our society today. Rituals exist to support adults who are grieving that have little relevance to children.

The religious education classroom is often the place where a child will speak of such a loss and try to articulate feelings associated with that loss. Feelings such as anger, sadness, confusion, relief and guilt may exhibit themselves in a child’s classroom behaviour, responses to questions and in discussions.

Teaching religious education lessons focusing on loss, suffering and death requires great skill and sensitivity on the part of the catechist.

In your planning:

- Check with the school staff for any response that was organised by the school at the start of the term. *Design your classroom response with this in mind.*
- Attempt to integrate your response into the lessons you plan for Lent and Easter – your CCD Regional office can assist you in doing this.

Training and Formation Program 2005

Full details and registration through your Regional Office (contact details – page 2)

2005 Basic Training		Central Coast	Manly Warringah	Northern
Level 1: Terms 1 / 2	Time:	Thursday 9:15am – 2:45pm	Wednesday 12:15pm – 2:45pm	Friday 9:15am – 2:45pm
	Location:	Gosford Parish Centre	Narrabeen CCD Centre	Willoughby St Thomas' Parish Hall
	Dates:	March 10, 17, 31 April 28 May 5, 12	March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6, 27 May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8	March 4, 11 April 1 May 6, 13, 20
Level 2: Terms 2/3/4	Time:	Wednesday 12:15pm – 2:45pm	Wednesday 12:15pm – 2:45pm	Monday 7:15 pm – 9:30 pm
	Location:	The Entrance Parish Centre	Narrabeen CCD Centre	Normanhurst Queen of Peace Parish
	Dates:	May 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July 20, 27 August 3, 10, 17	July 20, 27 August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 September 7, 14, 21 October 12, 19	May 2, 9, 16, 23 June 6, 20, 27 July 18, 25 August 1, 8, 15
Level 3 Terms 2/3/4	Time:	Monday 9:15am – 2:45pm	Friday 9:15am – 2:45pm	Thursday 9:15am – 2:45pm
	Location:	Warnervale MacKillop Parish	Narrabeen CCD Centre	Turramurra Uniting Church
	Dates:	August 15, 22, 29 September 5, 12, 19	August 5, 19, 26 September 2, 9 October 14	May 26 June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July 21, 28 August 4, 11, 18, 25

Regional Reflection Days

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	THEME
Northern Region:	Friday June 17	North Turramurra	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Pentecost
	Monday November 21	Berowra	9:30 am-2:30pm	Advent/Christmas
Central Coast:	Thursday June 9	Somersby	4pm-9pm	Pentecost
	Friday November 25	To be Confirmed	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Advent/Christmas
Manly Warringah:	Saturday May 7	Terrey Hills	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Pentecost
	Monday November 18	Terrey Hills	9:30 am-2:30 pm	Advent/Christmas

DIOCESAN RETREATS

SEMESTER ONE: Friday May 27 6pm – Sunday May 29 2pm Style: Preached Retreat
 SEMESTER TWO: Monday September 26- Friday 30 Style: Directed Retreat
 LOCATION: St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre Kincumber

CCD DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

Friday September 23 9:15am – 3:00 pm

St Joseph's Catholic College EAST GOSFORD



THEME: CREATIVE ARTS IN THE SRE CLASSROOM

Attention E-mailers!



If you would like to receive information regarding *Courses, In-Services, Workshops etc.*, run by the CCD, please e-mail us at: ccd_info@brokenbay.catholic.org.au

Note: In accordance with the Privacy Act, this information will only be used for the above purpose and will not be distributed to any other organisation.

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Letters to the Editor ...

In our parish of St Martin de Porres, Davidson, several of our catechists have been involved in the Sacramental Program for the last 2-3 years. Our Parish Priest, Fr. David Taylor, wanted the group leaders to be committed Catholics and asked the catechists for help. As each preparation period is 3-4 weeks, the extra workload on the catechist is minimal. The rewards are many. Sometimes the children are in our own class at school. The opportunity to "get to know" parents is a hidden benefit and you are more aware of who is preparing for a sacrament. It also makes the special day more meaningful when you have been involved in the preparation. Despite the suggestion of "more work" for already overworked volunteers, I would recommend the idea to other parishes.

Maureen Diebold

Davidson Parish

Response:

As the Sacramental Co-ordinator for St Martin de Porres' Parish, Davidson I want to tell you how much I am in the debt of a group of catechists from this parish who have volunteered their time and expertise to our Program.

This group of people came forward and offered their assistance, thankfully for me as co-ordinator because such volunteers are extremely scarce. They bring with them their expertise but more than that they bring their love of their faith and their regard for the children they instruct. On our enrolment evening when parents are advised of lesson times and leaders it is obvious that the catechists who teach their children at one of the local state schools are very eagerly sought after to do the same for their children's initiation to the Sacraments.

I have always found that the children who are instructed by the catechists of this Parish are extremely well prepared when they begin their instruction for Confirmation and the other Sacraments. I know these dedicated people already have a huge task each week but when they come as leaders of a group of children and parents they bring with them the same qualities as they take to the schools and this is obvious in the way the children respond.

I can't express in words how grateful I am for the support and assistance I get from this dedicated group of people. I thank God each time we start to prepare for a Sacrament to have been sent these people to provide the children of this parish with a very thorough instruction in the Sacraments.



A Quick Quiz for Catechists: Test your Religious Knowledge!

THEME: SACRAMENTS

1. A person seeking forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with the Church through the Sacrament of Reconciliation is called a
 - (a) penitent; (b) hermit; (c) prefect; (d) petitioner.
2. The part of the Mass in which the gifts of the bread and wine are presented to the priest is called the
 - (a) Liturgy of the Word; (b) Offertory; (c) Benediction; (d) Pulpit announcements.
3. The general term for blessed water, candles, ashes, palms, crucifixes, and the like is
 - (a) catechumens; (b) encyclicals; (c) doxologies; (d) sacramentals.
4. The practice of first Communion for children age seven or so goes back to
 - (a) the Middle Ages; (b) the Council of Trent; (c) the beginning of the 20th century; (d) the Second Vatican Council.
5. The wedding Mass is also known as
 - (a) Nuptial Mass; (b) Requiem Mass; (c) Mass of Anointing; (d) Chrism Mass.
6. The recommended day for baptising adults into the Catholic Church is
 - (a) Palm Sunday; (b) Holy Thursday; (c) Good Friday; (d) Easter Saturday during the Easter Vigil.
7. The action taken by a priest to forgive sins in the name of Christ is
 - (a) absolution; (b) admission; (c) resolution; (d) reparation.
8. Two or more priests saying Mass together are called
 - (a) prelates; (b) concelebrants; (c) conclaves; (d) periti.
9. Cremation
 - (a) is forbidden by the Catholic Church; (b) was practised by the Jews of the ancient Near East; (c) is acceptable only if the ashes are strewn over water; (d) is accepted by the Catholic Church although traditional burial is preferred.
10. Ceremonial display of a consecrated host in the church is called
 - (a) viaticum; (b) exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; (c) concelebration; (d) Benediction.

Send your entry to the address below!! Answers will be published in the next edition of Connections and on the CCD Web site.

CCD – Connections Quiz

By Mail: PO Box 125

By Fax: 02 9473 4599

Wahroonga NSW 2076

By e-mail: amwhenman@brokenbay.catholic.org.au

Answers to Connections Quiz v9i4:

1. d 2. c 3.a 4.c 5.b 6.d 7.c 8.c 9.a 10.b

Congratulations to all who sent in their answers. Well done to **Karla Heggie** (Chatswood) for a perfect score!!!!



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), have been commissioned by the Bishop of Broken Bay to bring the message of God's Kingdom to Catholic students in government schools through effective evangelisation. We are supportive of each other and those we serve in our ministry. We are inspired by the Holy Spirit and united in Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and at the centre of our lives and ministry.

As the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, we:

PROCLAIM

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus in our words and actions to Catholic students in government schools.

RESPOND PERSONALLY

Respond personally to God's unique love for each of us through an integration of our life experience and a spiritual and educational formation that is based on the scripture and tradition of Catholic faith.

LOVE EACH OTHER

Live and work with each other and those we serve in the CCD ministry in the love of Jesus, modelling this love in collaboration and support with mutual respect for the dignity, gifts and talents of all.

CELEBRATE

Celebrate and share our Catholic faith and experience with all members of the community, in order to demonstrate God's presence in every aspect of life.

EDUCATE

Educate students and catechists in our Catholic story and beliefs, and their implications for our lives, through provision of SRE classes, training programmes and other activities.

SERVE

Serve each other, the Catholic community and all creation in justice and love by being present to the needs of the CCD Community in living out our commission.

SEEK UNITY

Seek unity within our Diocesan Community and with our fellow Christians by working cooperatively to provide SRE in government schools, have meaningful dialogue with people of all faiths and seek to open the hearts and minds of all to understand the need for unity, wherever possible, in today's world.

A Story of Service

I became a Catechist in 1957 when Newport and Mona Vale were still part of Narrabeen Parish. I didn't exactly volunteer - Fr Hannan, who was the curate at the time, just told me he needed a catechist for the First Communion class at Newport School and I could do it. We had no syllabus or any kind of help, just knowledge of our own faith. I continued when Fr Keenan came and formed Mona Vale Parish. We now had a sheet of facts about our lesson. - one sheet which we had to form a lesson around.

I had to retire temporarily when my son was at St Augustine's College and my two daughters at Monte Saint Angelo College, as I was very involved with the schools. I came back after my younger daughter died and found that the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine supplied a complete syllabus for each class and conducted a 3 year Diploma Course, which I completed.

Since then I have taught almost every class in Newport and Mona Vale school, with the encouragement of our Coordinator - Sr Hugh. I was also very involved with the Sacramental programs when they were transferred from the Catholic schools to the Parish. The first year that the diocese changed the year for confirmation from Year 5 to Year 2, I organised the sacrament for 189 children at Corpus Christi Cathedral - that really was a marathon effort.

I would like to say that the catechists with whom I have worked in all those years are exceptional people and it has been a joy and a privilege to be associated with them and to be able to call them my friends.

Nell Lee

Congratulations to Nell who received a 35-year Service Award presented by Bishop David Walker at the Annual Diocesan Mass in October 2004.

**Do you have something to share of your experience as a catechist?
One or two lines.... a good lesson...a story...a great resource. ...some special event at your parish or school?
Send it to: The Editor, Connections, CCD, PO Box 125, Wahroonga 2076
or E-mail: amwhenman@brokenbay.catholic.org.au **Deadline: Monday 21 March 2005****