



CONNECTIONS

Diocese of Broken Bay

Volume 12 Issue 3

CCD NEWSLETTER

Term Three 2007

PROCLAIM

CELEBRATE

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Walking with Jesus
Pathways of Discipleship

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National Vocations Awareness Week
August 4-12
2007

SEEK UNITY

EDUCATE

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**TERM 3 2007
MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

See noticeboard on back page for details of events

July

- 16 TERM 3 COMMENCES
- 18 CCD Curriculum Day
- 20 CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm CCC
- 23 Manly Warringah Parish Coordinators Meeting 10am-2pm
Narraweena
- 27 Central Coast Parish Coordinators Meeting 12:00pm-3pm
The Entrance
- 30 Northern Region Training Workshop 9:30am-2:30pm Killara

August

- 7 CCD Curriculum Day
- 8 Curriculum Consultative Committee Meeting 9:30am-12pm CCC
- 13 Central Coast Monica Brown Workshop 9am – 3pm Terrigal
- 14 Northern Region Mass 7:30pm Carlingford
- 16 Manly Warringah Training Workshop 11:45am – 2:45pm
(Change of date and venue) Forestville
- 17 CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm CCC
- 21 Manly Warringah Regional Mass 7:30pm Manly Vale
- 23 CCD Curriculum Day
- 24-26 Lighthouse Festival Somersby
- 28 Central Coast Regional Mass 7pm Wyong
- 30 Manly Warringah: Secondary Curriculum Workshop
Manly Vale

September

- 3 Northern Region BAC 9am-4pm Chatswood
- 6 CCD Curriculum Day
- 10 Manly Warringah BAC 9am-4pm Narraweena
- 11 Diocesan Social Justice Day (Year 10) Oxford Falls
- CCD Advisory Committee Meeting 5pm-7pm CCC
- 12 Connections articles deadline CCC
- 14 CCD Executive Meeting 9:30am-4pm CCC
- 21 CCD Conference 9am-3pm Oxford Falls
- 24 Northern Region Parish Coordinators Meeting 9:30am-12:30pm
(Change of venue) CCC

- 26 CCD Curriculum Day
- 28 TERM 3 CONCLUDES

October

- 1-8 CCD OFFICES CLOSED

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From the Diocesan Office

In the preparation of this edition of *Connections* the CCD team have taken the theme of **Vocations** to coincide with *National Vocations Awareness Week* in August and the special focus of the Diocese of Broken Bay on prayer for vocations during the months of August, September and October. There are a variety of articles which will provide you with some excellent material for your personal reflection and formation as a catechist and for use in the classroom.

Congratulations to the many catechists across the diocese who participated in the Training and Formation programs offered in Term 2. It is hoped that many more of you will participate in some ongoing formation activity in the second semester.

Two events in particular I would like to recommend to you. Firstly, the **Diocesan CCD**

Conference, which will be held on Friday 21st September at Oxford Falls (MWP Region). Information will be available in a separate mail-out during August. The second event is the **live-retreat for catechists** to be held at St Josephs Spirituality Centre, Kincumber, in the first week of the school holidays at the end of Term 3.

Thank you for the work you continue to do in the provision of Special Religious Education for the majority of Catholic children in the Diocese of Broken Bay. It is an honour to support you in this great task of Faith Education contributing to the Diocesan vision of Pastoral Care for Evangelisation.

Ann Maree

Assistant Director- Parish Support Unit (CCD Director)

A Message from the Diocesan Vocation Director

Bishop David has called for our diocese to make a particular focus on prayer for vocations during August, September and October this year, beginning with National Vocations Awareness Week, August 4-12. In prayer, our job is not to tell God something God doesn't already know, or to try to make God do something God doesn't want to do. In prayer, our job is to be in a relationship of gratitude and love with the God who loves us, and in that relationship we can express our deepest hopes and longings.

I'm sure that all of us do hope and long that God will call our young people as they grow up to live in committed ways of life which honour and serve God. In a world where there is less and less emphasis on commitment, this is the background for our praying for vocations. When we speak of vocations I'd like us to focus on four equal but different ways of life, all of which include a committed vow or promise: marriage, diaconate, religious life and priesthood.

There are two other things we can do which complement our prayer for vocations – awareness-raising, and invitation. You are already raising the awareness of vocations for children in your classes, many of whom might not otherwise hear of religious life, diaconate and priesthood, nor hear of the Christian vision for marriage. I have just completed a short DVD on priesthood in Broken Bay to use with the Year 6 SRE unit on Sacraments of Service. These, together with prayer cards and information flyers are being given to each parish SRE coordinator in the coming weeks. I hope that these will be of help to you.



The final thing I ask you to do is to join in inviting young people to consider priesthood and religious life. In years past many religious would directly ask young school leavers to consider their vocation. Perhaps there was too much pressure and not enough discernment at the time. But now, there are too few invitations. It should be an affirmation of a young person to tell them that you see faith, love and leadership in them which would make them a good priest or religious. Two of the three young men presently in formation for priesthood for our diocese are people whom I personally asked. One of them said no at the time, but called me two years later to say that I'd got him thinking!

So thank you for your wonderful work of praying for, inviting into and teaching about vocations. May God bless us and our young people.

Fr Jim McKeon - Vocation Director

FROM THE REGIONS: Training and Formation across the Diocese

During Term Two four major Training and Formation events were held: special purpose *Workshops, Basic Accreditation Courses*; a 'new-look' *Child Protection Workshop* and the *Regional Reflection Days*.

Special Purpose Workshops

Classroom Management and Creative Teaching Strategies workshops were held in the parishes of Arcadia and Terrigal. The morning session consisted of looking at ways of creatively dealing with issues in the classroom that would disrupt a lesson and dealing with them in a non-confrontational manner, while maintaining the flow of the lesson. Input was via the use of an excellent video in which Bill Rogers demonstrates various means of dealing with disruptive behaviour in a non-disruptive way that recognises and respects the student's dignity. The second part of this session looked at putting these techniques into practice. Participants in small groups had fun as they role played the scenarios presented in the video.

After morning tea, until the end of the day, a variety of new strategies that are being employed in the new program, Walking with Jesus, were explored. These included using the mandala for prayer, frozen statues, liquid pictures, six hats and SWOT analysis for bringing scriptures to life and enabling the students to gain a fuller understanding of the passage, using the KWL method of establishing what the students already **know**, what they **want** to learn and then at the end of the lesson, what they did **learn**. This was used to start the second part of the day and it gave the presenters an idea of the direction that the workshop needed to take. To close the workshop, the KWL method was revisited to hear from the participants what they actually did learn.

Basic Accreditation Courses

Basic Accreditation Courses were held at Waitara, St Ives and The Entrance parishes. Good numbers attended with some completing courses previously begun. Regional Coordinators presented *The Mission and Ministry of the Catechist*. At St Ives and the Entrance parishes Ann Maree Whenman, Assistant Director (PSU) presented *The SRE Teacher in the Parish and School*. This presentation included the new look of Child Protection material. This proved to be of great interest to the new catechists, generating discussion and comment. The final unit of the day - *Teaching the Authorised Curriculum* used a hands-on approach so the catechists would get to know the connection between the teachers' manual and the student's workbook.

Michael Tebbutt
Alison Newell

Regional Coordinator: Northern Region
Regional Coordinator: Central Coast - Gosford

Child Protection Workshop

Child Protection Training for Volunteers was the title of the workshop delivered by Ann Maree Whenman, Assistant Director (PSU), on behalf of the Central Coast SRE Committee (affiliated with ICCOREIS) at Wyoming on Monday May 7th. This initiative brought together people of joint denominations to participate in a most enlightening and all-inclusive session on the fundamental information needed by all volunteers who have contact with children.

Ron Taylor, the treasurer for the Central Coast SRE Committee observed that - "*The day was an outstanding success with the fifty-seven SRE teachers present coming from as far as Swansea in the north to Ettalong in the south. The comprehensive Child Protection Course presented by Ann Maree Whenman was appreciated by everyone*"

By means of scenarios, participants were invited to discuss and determine an appropriate course of action they as SRE teachers may need to take if such a situation were to occur.

Throughout the workshop Ann Maree presented current information from the Department of Community Services; NSW Ombudsman; NSW Department of Education and Training and the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

While attendees were given contact details for each of the agencies they were also given clear procedures or steps to be followed as a means of protecting not only their students but themselves.

The workshop concluded in prayer where many participants spontaneously spoke of their gratitude for the opportunity to work with children in safe and non-threatening environments.

Maria Whitton *Regional Coordinator: Central Coast - Wyoming*



***Inter-Church
Child Protection
Workshop,
Wyoming***



FROM THE REGIONS: *Training and Formation across the Diocese*

Regional Reflection Days

The Reflections Days held across the three regions provided an excellent opportunity for spiritual formation. Using Luke's Gospel as the core of each Reflection Day, Sr. Marian McClelland guided catechists through a creative and meditative day. The following comments from the catechists who attended, tell the story.

A short note of thanks to Kath, Michael and Sister Marian for a wonderful retreat last Monday. Everything was well organised, I came away feeling rejuvenated and re-motivated. The Wahroonga Catechists provided such a wonderful display of eats that not only did I leave spiritually revitalised but also physically satisfied. I appreciated every minute of the retreat. I think the meditative dance was fantastic – definitely to try again... With thanks,
Christine Perrin, Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Parish

At the Reflection Day for catechists held recently at Terrey Hills, we were asked to walk quietly in the gardens of the church to find in our surroundings some connection with God. Several of us independently found a group of brilliantly coloured fungal fruiting bodies (toadstools). This mushroom-like "plant" was bright red in colour, spotted with white blobs; the sort of thing we have all seen in children's picture books, generally associated with elves or fairies. They were certainly captivating, and generated an appreciation of the beauty of God's creation. To my scientific mind came the question: a big WHY? Was it to attract predators to devour and spread spores, or was it just the chance mutation of genes that came up with something to catch the attention of passing humans?

Whatever the answer, I am grateful for all such pointers to ongoing creation, despite the other-side of the coin: toadstools are dangerous for humans to eat, just as volcanoes are dangerous in potential, yet both are a reminder of the power of the Creator. These must also remind us of the precariousness of our existence, our need to take care of ourselves, and our ultimate dependence on our Creator. I am sure that days of reflection and prayer like this do rub off in our weekly delivery of lessons.

David Hamilton Frenchs Forest Parish

One person related that she had been pondering the mystery of the relational aspects of the Blessed Trinity and was asking of God some awareness of current realities in human relationships when she saw the little red mushroom in the middle of the

paddock. Thinking it to be a concrete or plastic garden ornament, she nevertheless stopped to admire, wondering who had placed these ornaments there. Then, upon realizing that it was a real and living element of creation, she was quite overwhelmed. It was as if God who is ever a Surprise was saying: "Yes! What you are thinking and feeling and experiencing is real; it is not a fairytale or a fantasy. Trust that I will surprise you along your journey." What a wonderful, refreshing, revitalizing and peace-filled workshop/reflection day Saturday was! We band of "God Squad Kelpies" rounding up the sheep all thoroughly enjoyed every aspect, and we found out who does not know their right foot from their left! We are so grateful for this precious opportunity to share and also to take some time out for ourselves. We all had a brilliant day, and do encourage all catechists who missed out to take advantage of this time that is made available to us. Many thanks for all the hard work and dedication and god Bless.

Bev Crouch and the Harbord Parish Catechists.

I had a great time at this reflection day - I thought it was just what our community of catechists needed. Thanks for organising it.

Angela Spencer Frenchs Forest Parish

Sr. Marian greeted each one of us individually and then proceeded to draw us into a prayerful and thought provoking meditation. She engaged each one of us in every separate activity and reading that she presented. She has a very calming voice and the menfolk who were with us found themselves going to sleep during her meditation. We also learnt a very calming rhythmic dance movement. We enjoyed a walk through the grounds, the weather, the birds and the food helped to make a very enjoyable day.

Barbara and Jim McCarthy Gosford Parish



Northern Region Reflection Day

CURRICULUM NEWS

WALKING WITH JESUS

PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Good News for Government Schools - The Word of God in the Classroom

Charlotte (8 months) spends her afternoons energetically crawling, exploring *Tupperware* cupboards and experimenting with sounds such as “poppa”. After bath time with Dad she devours her dinner and settles in for the evening. Her daily ritual winds down with some special time on Mum’s lap looking at pictures and listening to a story. Like most children, Charlotte is learning the importance of the book.

In many Christian homes the book is the Bible and the child is introduced to the sacred stories of our God and our people.

Catechists continue this special training whenever they take up the Bible and read a story to a class, a very simple routine which reverences the Bible as the word of God.

Walking with Jesus is a Catholic Special Religious Education program which draws heavily from Sacred Scripture. Already catechists are have recognised the significance of the **relate** ‘R’ and have requested assistance with this aspect of the new program.

The first presentation of Bible workshops was piloted at Mona Vale last term. Two units have been developed by Eulalie O’Keefe (Regional Coordinator - Manly Warringah Peninsula). The first is a basic introduction to Sacred Scriptures through analysing the composition of the text and describing text types. Catechists appreciated the overview of the church teaching and the walk through the various writings as well as the gentle spirituality which was offered. The second focuses upon the place of the Bible in our new program. This very practical guide led catechists to recognise units which taught about the Bible explicitly and those which drew on the riches of scripture implicitly.

Scripture and Tradition are the foundations of faith formation of the children who are engaged with the *Walking with Jesus* program. Besides being addressed in a specific ‘R’ in the Religious Education model, *Teaching for Discipleship Responses*, the Bible informs the spirit of the program. The Discipleship Response –

“Students will be challenged to reverence the Bible”

indicates the significance of the Word of God in the lives of modern Catholics.

The feedback and evaluation from the catechists attending the workshops has clearly indicated an appreciation of the prominence of scripture and the place of the Bible in the new program. For many catechists this may prove a challenge – one to which the CCD is responding to with new Training and Formation courses.

John Donnelly

Senior Coordinator CCD



The Contemporary English Version (CEV) Bible offers a range of editions suitable for all ages of students. These texts are being used for the *Walking with Jesus – Pathways of Discipleship* program.

CURRICULUM NEWS

WALKING WITH JESUS

PATHWAYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Vocation of Christian Parenthood

Have you ever considered the significance of the daily rituals of family life and their connectedness with the rituals of the early Christian communities or with Eucharist? Think of families in the modern world as they come together at the beginning or end of their day. They gather, they are nourished by each other's words and the meal they share then they go forth into the world of work, school and neighbourhoods.

The new Broken Bay Diocese SRE Curriculum, *Walking with Jesus - Pathways of Discipleship*, recognises the significance of the daily rituals of home life. It recognises that God is able to speak through the lived experiences of every person. Christian families mediate God's love to their children by providing them the basics of food, clothing and shelter. Most families go beyond these needs to provide opportunities for education, activities and entertainment. The program seeks to assist children and their families to recognise the goodness and godliness of ordinary life.

Christian families model the values of Jesus Christ by the way they live their lives. Acts of kindness such as cooking a meal for a sick neighbour, or assisting with child care provide models of Christian charity. Many families also model forgiveness through the ups and downs of daily life. In the aftermath of hurt and loss, there are opportunities for healing and forgiveness - forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts Christian families pass on to their children.

In the 21st Century there are many different types of families and family homes. The family supplement section of the Broken Bay SRE program is an opportunity to help the children and their parents, grandparents, stepparents, foster parents or guardians recognise the presence of Jesus in their homes. The families of the children we teach have made a choice to have their children in the Catholic SRE classroom. By exercising their right to do so, they have given a clear indication that they want the Church to support them in raising their children in the Faith.

Many families who are living faith filled lives are drawing closer to Jesus every day through the very process of Christian parenthood. But, many do not feel valued in their vocation as Christian parents. Some of them feel unworthy because their lives are not perfect, yet it is in our imperfection that we are called to be members of the Body of Christ. Some of them may not even be aware that the presence of God is among them.



The role of catechists representing our Parishes is to support families to raise their children in the Faith. By helping the children recognise the holiness of their families and the spirituality that exists in their homes, we are affirming the vocation of Christian parenthood while forming the children in faith. Family supplements are one way that this can be achieved.

Alison Newell
Regional Coordinator
Central Coast - Gosford

John Donnelly
Senior Coordinator CCD

For more information – try looking at these web sites:

www.homeisaholyplace.org.uk

Home is a Holy Place is about seeing, knowing and responding to God's presence at home in our families, in the ordinary events of our daily lives, in the deep joys and sorrows we experience together and in our relationships with one another, whether we are children, siblings, parents, spouses, friends or neighbours.

www.celebratingfamily.org.uk
www.everybodyswelcome.org.uk
www.passingonthefaith.org.uk
www.listening2004.org.uk

Sacraments of Service



| |
|---|
| Term 3 |
| Week 1 Ordinary Time |
| Week 2 Ordinary Time |
| Week 3 Transfiguration |
| Week 4 Ordinary Time <i>Mary MacKillop</i> Transfiguration |
| Week 5 Ordinary Time <i>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| Week 6 Ordinary Time <i>Queenship of Mary</i> |
| Week 7 Ordinary Time <i>St Augustine</i> |
| Week 8 Ordinary Time |
| Week 9 Ordinary Time |
| Week 10 Ordinary Time |
| Week 11 Ordinary Time <i>St Vincent de Paul</i> |
| Term 4 |
| Week 1 Ordinary Time <i>St Teresa of Jesus</i> <i>St Luke</i> |
| Week 2 Ordinary Time |
| Week 3 Ordinary Time <i>All Saints Day</i> |
| Week 4 Ordinary Time |
| Week 5 Ordinary Time |
| Week 6 Ordinary Time |
| Week 7 <i>Christ the King</i> |
| Week 8 Advent |
| Week 9 Advent |



There are many different ways that our students make meaning of, and learn about life. A catechist can offer students a choice of ways to use the 'Multiple Intelligences' methods of learning during the 'Sacraments of Service' Unit in the Year Six program.

Choose from the following – only one or two at a time! Be creative!

1. Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence

Offer activities that give students the opportunity to use words in creative ways:

- ❖ Create a poem in a form you enjoy most that tells about marriage or the priesthood.
- ❖ Create a comic strip of an incident in a family or between a priest and a parishioner which causes friction, then the resolution of the difficult situation. Arrange the frames of the comic out of sequence then give to a fellow student to re-arrange in correct order.

2. Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

Offer activities that allow students to use logic, argument and reasoning:

- ❖ Imagine you are a parent or priest who is trying to convince a partner or fellow priest of his / her point of view in an argument about which of you should be responsible for a significant task. Use sensible points and sound reasoning in your argument to win the other over to your way of thinking. Give them good reasons that will be to their advantage.

3. Visual-Spatial Intelligence

Offer activities that allow students to think in pictures and symbols:

- ❖ Make up a sequence of symbols to represent the many tasks a parent or priest undertakes regularly in what is done for others they relate to and deal with on a day-to-day basis.
- ❖ Create a collection of pictures that remind us of ways husband and wife - and priests serve people and each other in daily life. The pictures can be in photo-like representations or symbols.

4. Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence

Offer activities that allow students to express themselves through music:

- ❖ Collect some music tracks or arrange a musical presentation that describes relationships between husband and wife and / or priest and people. Present this to your class. Teach it to your class.

5. Naturalist Intelligence

Offer activities that allow students to collect and organise things of nature:

- ❖ Create a pattern or arrangement of objects from nature to suit a frame for a photo of a newly married couple or a newly ordained priest.
- ❖ Create an imaginary scene of a pair of bush creatures on their 'wedding day'. Include another bush creature as the 'priest' blessing the 'marriage'.

6. Bodily / Kinaesthetic Intelligence

Offer activities that allow students to express themselves through movement:

- ❖ Create and present a mime to the class that depicts parents performing daily tasks for their children. Use body and hand movements with facial expressions, for the class to guess the 'story' that is unfolding in the mime.
- ❖ Create and present a mime for the class that depicts a priest visiting a person who is in trouble. Show how the priest might advise and help that person. Invite the class to guess what is happening and suggest how the priest would help that person.

Vocations Education: What does this mean today?

Historically (Pre Vatican II), Vocations were specifically understood to mean the call of people to ordained or consecrated life as a priest, brother or sister.

In recent times the term “Vocation” has come to be equated more with life choices of occupation or career as a means to a livelihood. Vocation is NOT careerism. It is discerning our connection with God whether that means through industry, medical, education, church or in a service profession. It’s about people having the opportunity to realise they are discerning the way their life’s work connects them in their relationship with God.

A *VOCATIONS CULTURE* was a passion of Pope John Paul II and is now an integral part of our calling as catechists. At the third Continental Vocations Congress in Montreal 2002, this culture was described as:

A culture in which each Christian is empowered to identify and respond to the mission to which he or she is called as a member of the body of Christ in and for the world



Each catechist has a significant role in fostering a *Culture of Vocations*. This can address this through:

- Witnessing** Sharing your own sense of ministry and vocation with you class.
- Respecting** Valuing all the ways people respond to God’s call to holiness and service and highlight this to students. in the way you speak
- Encouraging** a sense of excitement about answering God’s call.
- Recognising** that the source of most religious vocations is identified through personal encouragement from a teacher, catechist, priest, deacon, brother of sister.
- Sharing stories** The lives of the saints are a great source of vocation stories. Stories from a multitude of sources can also give examples of how people use their talents to answer God’s call.

Praying: Think, Reflect and Pray –

Before class ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to the acceptance of each young person where they may be in their personal faith journey.
Make prayer a part of your regular class routine:

- *Lord, help us develop and use our gifts completely.*
- *Lord, help us to see what Jesus dream is for each of us.*
- *Lord, help us be aware of your call, open to your call and ready to answer your call.*

(Adapted from Schippe, C. (2004). What a Great Catch! : Vocation awareness in the catechetical classroom. *Catechist*, 40(4), 32-34.)

Maria Whitton

Regional Coordinator: Central Coast - Wyong

Catholic Vocations Awareness Committee

Guidelines are available free: 02 9630 5620

office@catholicozvocations.org.au

Information from Diocese of Broken Bay DVD: Contact your Regional Office



Quick Web Links:

Here are a few sites which may be helpful in fostering vocation awareness:

[Catholic Vocations](http://www.catholicvocation.org.au)

This site has information and resources on religious vocations and consecrated life, including personal stories, articles and prayers.

www.catholicvocation.org.au

[OZVocations - Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia - CVMA](http://www.ozvocations.catholic.org.au)

Includes a list of lay groups and religious orders for men and women,

www.ozvocations.catholic.org.au

FOR THE CLASSROOM

Mission and Ministry

In the first article in this series (*Connections*, v12i2, pp. 10-11) we examined the deep mystical elements of mission and our need to continue to develop a personal, loving, intimate and dynamic relationship with the triune God so that the Mission of Jesus truly becomes our mission.

Ministry is service to others in Christ. In all its expressions, ministry depends upon this dynamic relationship. This is the unshakable centre of a believer's life.

Ministry depends also upon our attentiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit within and how the Holy Spirit is uniting our particular combination of personality, abilities, heart strengths and heart intentions, life experiences and spiritual gifts.

To Think About . . .

Accept the fact that from our Baptism and Confirmation we are anointed to serve as priest and prophet.

Catechists, as believers, and members of the Lay Faithful in the front line of Church life, participate in Christ's priestly and prophetic office (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*, 1994, 900).

In the pattern of Christ's service, we unite our personal talents, God's Spiritual gifts, the tradition of God's people and community, and the needs of our particular age.

A priestly ministry

. . . the laity, dedicated as they are to Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit, are marvellously called and prepared so that even richer fruits of the Spirit may be produced in them. For all their works, prayers, and apostolic undertakings, family and married life, daily work, relaxation of mind and body, if they are accomplished in the Spirit, - indeed even the hardships of life if patiently born- all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. And so, worshipping everywhere by their holy actions, the laity consecrates the world itself to God, everywhere offering worship by the holiness of their lives. (CCC, 1994, 901)

A prophetic ministry

Christ . . . fulfils this prophetic office, not only by the hierarchy . . . but also by the laity. He accordingly both establishes them as witnesses and provides them with the sense of the faith [sensus fidei], and the grace of the Word . . . Lay people fulfil this prophetic mission by evangelization 'that is the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life'. (CCC, 1994, 904 - 905)

The needs of our particular age:

The biblical witness, and in particular Jesus' proclamation of the Reign of God, points to God's "vision" of a humanity constituted as a single "family" or community, a communion of persons in which no one is to be an "outsider" . . . The Christian is asked not only to care for those excluded, but to become at-one with them, to view and experience the world through their eyes and experience, as Jesus had done through his birth, ministry and death (Di Nicola, 2004, p.189-190)

To Pray About . . .

As a woman or a man who expresses their priestly and prophetic ministry in the particular role of a catechist . . .

- ▽ Have you reflected upon the various aspects of your life as ministry and as spiritual sacrifices and worship acceptable to God through Jesus Christ?
- ▽ What is your particular personality?
- ▽ What life *experiences* have shaped you into the particular way you are in life at this present time?
- ▽ Have you ever thought that this storehouse of life experiences both painful and positive can be used by God to bring others into God's family?

Mission and Ministry

- ▽ Have you been able to access and use your life experiences to develop your character and to develop the fruits of the Spirit in you?
- ▽ What are “the richer fruits of the Holy Spirit.”?
- ▽ What are the Spiritual Gifts for Ministry?
- ▽ How is the Holy Spirit uniting your particular combination of personality, abilities, heart strengths and heart intentions, life experiences and spiritual gifts?
- ▽ The needs of our particular age: What are these?
- ▽ As a Catechist fulfilling the prophetic mission of Jesus by evangelization and witness, what graces and discernment do I need in Faith Hope and Love?

To Explore . . .

You are invited to be attentive to the action of the Holy Spirit by exploring the following Scripture passages in prayer and reflection.

John 16: 12-15

When the Spirit of Truth comes.....

Galatians 5: 5-6

Faith makes its power felt through love

Galatians 5: 22-23

What the Spirit brings:

Psalms 139

You know me Lord, I am wonderfully made

Acts 13: 22:

“I have found David (here insert your own name) to be a man after my own heart who will carry out all my wishes”

Acts: 13: 36

“David served the purpose of God in his own generation”.....I serve the purposes of God in my generation, in this particular age.

Isaiah.11: 1-9

Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the will to be a Peacemaker

Matthew.5:9

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Philippians 1: 9-10.

Determining what is best

1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40.

The Spiritual Gifts

References: Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994) 900-905
 Di Nicola, M. (2004) Faith Seeking Justice in R. Lennan In R. Lennan (Ed.),
The Possibility of Belief: The challenges and prospects of Catholic Faith (pp.
 177-205). Strathfield: St Pauls Publications.

Eulalie O’Keefe

Regional Coordinator: Manly Warringah

From Kincumber . . .

St Charles Borromeo is the Patron of Catechists throughout the world because he oversaw the writing of the Catechism and the early prayer books as well as founding the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for the religious education of the poor and the needy. Here in Australia we can accept him as a heavenly helper but someone closer to home would be beneficial. Blessed Mary MacKillop was a visitor to most of the schools of the Broken Bay Diocese and taught the Catholic Doctrine to thousands of children. The Kincumber Parish invoked her help at the recruiting Mass at the end of 2006, with the result that we had fourteen new volunteers.

A short prayer to Blessed Mary before each class is also helpful to conduct the class successfully.

*“Blessed Mary MacKillop please be aware of our efforts to teach the children of the State Schools about God’s love. Help and guide us in our endeavours.
 Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.”*

Martin Kerrigan



2007 Basic Accreditation Courses (BAC)

| | Central Coast | Manly Warringah | Northern |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Date: | November 30 (Friday) | September 10 (Monday) | November 26 (Monday) |
| Location: | Terrigal | Narraweena | Wahroonga |
| Time: | 9:00am – 4:00pm | 9:00am – 4:00pm | 9:00am – 4:00pm |
| Register by: | Tuesday 20 November | Wednesday 5 September | Wednesday 21 November |
| Date: | | December 10 (Monday) | |
| Location: | | Forestville | |
| Time: | | 9:00am – 4:00pm | |
| Register by: | | Wednesday 5 December | |

Single BAC units may be attended to make up missed units. Talk to your Regional Office for details.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Northern Region



Preparing and Running Assemblies / Creating Audio-Visual Presentations

Monday 30 July
9:30am – 2:30pm
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall,
76 Fiddens Wharf Rd,
Killara
RSVP: Thursday 26 July
Phone Sharon - 9847 0492

Central Coast Region

**Monica Brown
Music Workshop**



Monday 13 August
9am – 3pm
Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Hall
165 Serpentine Drive
Terrigal
RSVP: Thursday 9 August
Phone Lee - 4323 7090

Manly Warringah Region



Creative Teaching Strategies in the New Curriculum

Note change of date

Thursday 16 August
11:45am – 2:45pm
Parish Meeting Rooms
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Currie Rd, Forestville
RSVP: Monday 13 August
Phone Dolly - 9913 3040



THE MANLY WARRINGAH REGIONAL CENTRE IS



to Manly Vale

The move will make visiting the office easier as it's on the ground floor with off-street parking. Eulalie and Dolly look forward to welcoming you there soon. The office will be open from the start of Term 3 - excuse the boxes!

2 King Street, Manly Vale
(in the grounds of St Kieran's Parish, facing King St)

Postal Address:
52/343 Condamine Street,
Manly Vale NSW 2093



REGIONAL MASSES

Northern Region:

Tuesday 14 August, 7:30pm
St Gerard's, Carlingford

Manly Warringah Region:

Tuesday 21 August, 7:30pm
St Kieran's, Manly Vale

Central Coast:

Tuesday 28 August, 7:00pm
St Cecilia's, Wyong

CATECHISTS' RETREAT

Theme: Luke's Gospel

Live-in retreat:

Tuesday 2 October –
Friday 5 October
St Joseph's Spirituality
Centre, Kincumber
Enquiries/bookings:
Jackie 9847 0484
Places are limited



Do you have something to share of your experience as a catechist?
One or two lines . . . a good lesson . . . a story . . . a great resource . . . a special event - parish or school?
Send it to: The Editor, Connections, CCD, PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715
e-mail: ccd@brokenbay.catholic.org.au Deadline: Wednesday 12 September 2007