

# Into the Deep

Issue 1

October 2002

## What's this all about?

*Welcome to the first issue of Into the Deep!*

The idea of a newsletter came about in response to the following:

- we no longer have a voice in our diocesan Catholic newspaper,
- many orthodox Catholics in various parishes feel isolated and alienated,
- too often we find ourselves griping about what we see happening in our diocese that doesn't conform to Church teaching, but we feel helpless to do anything about it,
- letters and visits to our Bishop have not been effective.

In the light of this, we want the newsletter to provide:

- a forum for us to critically evaluate and share where we, as a diocese and as individuals, are in relation to our faithfulness to Christ and His Church,
- a means for us to co-ordinate our efforts to restore love for orthodoxy,
- a vehicle for Letters to the Editor,
- a means for us to support one another in remaining true to the Catholic faith,
- information that can be easily and confidently used in defence of the faith when approaching or challenging persons or institutions who are required to be providing examples of Catholic life,
- an opportunity for readers to ask questions and have questions answered by our editor and helpers.

## Letters to the Editor

Readers are welcome to contribute letters or articles. We cannot guarantee that all will be published, and some will be edited due to space.

Please keep letters factual, and report only first-hand information. It will be easy to slip into bitterness or gossip, which we need to avoid.

The purpose of sharing letters is to pass on relevant information and suggestions for making positive changes, that is, in line with the Catechism of the Catholic church.

We live in joyful hope that the diocese we love can be faithful to the authentic tradition of the Church. As such, Into the Deep aims to be a messenger of hope and not of doom.

Letters must be accompanied by name, address and phone number. However, if there is a reasonable request, anonymity will be preserved when publishing.

## Contact Into the Deep...

E-mail [stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au)

or mail care of

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Please notify by either mail or e-mail if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

## Twisting words...

"I have spoken always of the 'Catholic Church in Australia' and not of an Australian Catholic Church. There is no such thing as an Australian Catholic Church, but there are those within the Church who think and speak as if they were part of such a Church.

Without reliable authority in the Church, communion is threatened, unity is lost and division follows."

*Cardinal Edward Cassidy*

## John Paul II Warns Against Trend to "Clericalize the Laity"

When greeting a group of bishops from western Brazil in Rome for their once-every-five-year visit, the Pope said that today there is a "confusion of functions," which originates in erroneous theological interpretations.

"Among the objectives of the liturgical reform established by Vatican Council II, was the need to have all the faithful participate in liturgical ceremonies," the Holy Father told the bishops. "However, in practice, in the years following the council, in order to fulfil this desire, the confusion of functions in regard to the priestly ministry and role of the laity was arbitrarily extended," he explained.

Symptoms of this confusion are "the indiscriminate and common recitation of the Eucharistic Prayer," "homilies given by lay people" and the "distribution of Communion by the laity." These "grave abuses often originated in doctrinal errors, especially in regard to the nature of the liturgy, of the common priesthood of Christians, of the vocation and mission of the laity, but also in regard to the ordained ministry of priests," the Pope stressed.

John Paul II confirmed that the faithful who are not ordained may "carry out some tasks and functions of cooperation in pastoral service" only "when they are expressly appointed by their respective consecrated pastors, in keeping with prescriptions of the law."

He clarified that the members "of the diocesan pastoral or parish council have only a consultative vote and, for this reason, may not be considered deliberative."

The Pope emphasized that the bishop "must hear the faithful, clergy and laity, to form an opinion," but "the latter may not formulate a definitive judgment on the Church," as "it corresponds to the bishop to discern and pronounce himself, not on a mere question of conscience, but as a teacher of the faith."

(Zenit news, 23-09-02)

## The role of the laity in Catholic schools

'The identity and success of Catholic education is linked inseparably to the witness of life given by the teaching staff. Therefore, the Bishops recommended that "those responsible for hiring teachers and administrators in our Catholic schools take into account the faith-life of those they are hiring". School staff who truly live their faith will be agents of a new evangelisation in creating a positive climate for the Christian faith to grow and in spiritually nourishing the students entrusted to their care. They will be especially effective when they are active practising Catholics, committed to their parish community and loyal to the Church and her teaching.'

*Ecclesia in Oceania, Pope John Paul II, 2001*

**Is this happening in our diocese...?** It appears not. Schools take in large numbers of students, a significant proportion non-Catholic. Large numbers mean more teachers are needed, and the lack of teachers in general means that our schools employ teachers regardless of their faith-life.

Where do the priorities of those responsible for this situation lie ... in numbers, in funding, in appearances, academics ... or faith? Let's remind them why we send our children to Catholic schools, and ask them to put into practice the recommendations of our Australian bishops – in keeping with the directives of the Holy Father.

## Orthodoxy?

From the Greek ...

## Right doctrine

*Mary*, our mother  
and mother of the Redeemer,  
gate of heaven and star of the sea,  
Come to the aid of your people,  
who have sinned,  
yet also yearn to rise again!  
Come to the Church's aid,  
enlighten your devoted children,  
strengthen the faithful  
throughout the world,  
let those who have drifted  
hear your call  
and may they who live as  
prisoners of evil  
be converted!

*John Paul II*