

Into the Deep

Issue 143

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2014

March for the Babies – Don't be afraid!

Join the March for the Babies on Saturday 11 October at 1pm at the Treasury Gardens, Melbourne.

Don't be afraid to come because of what the protestors did last year – the police have committed to doing better this time.

Now, more than ever, pro-lifers need to be seen and heard. Do not be intimidated by the people of darkness, but come and show them the light of life.

Meet at the Wellington Parade side of the Treasury Gardens, corner of Spring Street. Wear pink or blue.

This is the 6th annual March for the Babies. It is a peaceful rally to defend the rights of unborn babies and their mothers against the 2008 Abortion Law Reform Act. See marchforthebabies.org.au for more.

An update on September 19th on the website says: "We met with Victoria Police Command tonight and were more than satisfied with their assurances that police resources will be boosted significantly this year to avoid a repeat of last year's violence. October 11 will be the safest March yet!"

See you there!

- Ed.

Reader Survey

Have your say about *Into the Deep* by completing the ITD Reader Survey on page 11, or online at the blog stoneswillshout.com/wp.

The survey is anonymous, and will only take a minute to fill in, so no excuses – give us your opinion!

*"Stand firm and immovable
as an anvil when it is beaten upon."*

St Ignatius of Loyola

"Into the Deep – I LOVE YOU!!!"

With the above heading, the following encouraging and uplifting email arrived shortly after the September issue of ITD was sent out. It makes front page news this month in honour of ITD's 12th birthday. Thank you, Maria!

I am a Catholic Missionary by God's grace and mercy, and I just want to tell you that I LOVE YOU!!!!!! Your newsletter radiates the light of Christ brilliantly, courageously and authentically, thanks be to God and to you! I can't think of any other publication which is so solidly packed with wonderful, valuable teaching and information. I am sure you are making Our Beloved Lord, Blessed Mother and all of the Church Triumphant extremely joyful!!! May you continue to be blessed with all graces necessary to fulfil Our Lord's Divine Will, through the sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Mother, and may St Michael protect and defend you all! Thank you for all your work!!!!

When I see your publication, this verse from Sacred Scripture comes to my mind: (St Paul to the Romans 5:20)

"And where sin abounded, grace did more abound."

Our hands hold around the world! You all remain in our prayers.

Maria Meszaros, Detroit, U.S.A.

Martyrs Challenge Us

Pope Francis, Seoul, 16-08-2014

So often we today can find our faith challenged by the world, and in countless ways we are asked to compromise our faith, to water down the radical demands of the Gospel and to conform to the spirit of this age. Yet the martyrs call out to us to put Christ first and to see all else in this world in relation to him and his eternal Kingdom. They challenge us to think about what, if anything, we ourselves would be willing to die for.

Zenit.org 16-08-2014

All issues of *Into the Deep* are at www.stoneswillshout.com

12 Years Old!

Another year gone, and ITD reaches 12 years old! Thank you to everyone for all the support and encouragement over the years. We couldn't have done it without you!

ITD continues to grow; and so do our costs. Although more people are subscribing online now and fewer subscribers want ITD mailed out to them, printing and postage costs are still a significant cost (\$450 to \$500 a month). As we have no subscription fees, our Birthday Month is the occasion when we remind you all to please donate.

A number of readers have asked if they can donate online, and I've had to say no in the past. But now we have two new options. On the blog there is a "donate" button for those who have PayPal accounts. I'm not sure yet if it works (or how!) so please, if you donate that way, let me know so that I can check that your donation has been received.

In addition, I have set up a separate bank account for ITD, for those who want to donate directly. The account details are as follows:

Account name: Janet Kingman

BSB: 013-745 (ANZ, Morwell branch)

Account number: 2901-63632.

For those who donate by cheque, please make cheques out to "Janet Kingman" from now on. Thanks to John Henderson (and his late wife Terry) who looked after donations in the past. John is still around and still a big part of ITD, but now that we have set up an account, it makes sense to make cheques out to me instead. John of course will still receive cash donations with pleasure! ("nothing under \$500", he usually jokes!)

ALL donations go directly towards printing and postage of ITD. Internet and other costs are covered privately, and all work is voluntary.

Thank you to all those who have been so generous in the past.

- Ed.

Raising Funds

"Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God – the rest will be given."

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Anaesthetic

Pope Francis, Morning Mass, 12-09-2014

You cannot reprimand a person without love and charity. [Just like] you cannot perform surgery without anaesthesia: you cannot, because the patient will die from the pain. And charity is like an anaesthetic that helps you to receive treatment and accept reprimand. Take him to one side and talk to him, with gentleness, with love. ...

Fraternal reprimand is an act that heals the Body of the Church. There's a tear, there, in the fabric of the Church that we must mend. And like mothers and grandmothers, who mend so gently, so delicately, we must do likewise when we want to reprimand our brother. If you're not able to do this with love, charity, truth and humility, you will offend, you will destroy the heart of that person, you will add to gossip, that hurts, and you will become a blind hypocrite, just as Jesus says.

Zenit.org 12-09-2014

"Nothing more glorious,

nothing nobler, nothing surely more honourable can be imagined than to belong to the One, Holy Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church, in which we become members of One Body as venerable as it is unique; are guided by one supreme Head; are filled with one divine Spirit; are nourished during our earthly exile by one doctrine and one heavenly Bread, until at last we enter into the one, unending blessedness of heaven."

Mystici Corporis Christi, n. 91

Not About Numbers

Pope Francis, to Bishops of Congo, 12-09-2014

It is such joy to see that Christian communities are developing! However, you know that the essential, for the Church, is not first of all a question of numbers but of a total adhesion without reservations to God revealed in Jesus Christ. The quality of faith in Christ dead and resurrected, profound communion with Him is at the base of the solidity of the Church.

Consequently, it is of vital importance to evangelize in depth. Fidelity to the Gospel, to the Tradition and to the Magisterium are sure signs that guarantee the purity of the source to which you lead the People of God.

Zenit.org 12-09-2014

World Mission Day

Pope Francis, in his message for the 88th World Mission Day, which this year will be held 19 October

Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission *ad gentes* continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born “to go forth”.

World Mission Day is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands.

It is a celebration of grace and joy. A celebration of grace, because the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, offers wisdom and strength to those who are obedient to his action. A celebration of joy, because Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, sent to evangelize the world, supports and accompanies our missionary efforts. ...

The Father is the source of joy. The Son is its manifestation, and the Holy Spirit its giver. ... “The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1).

“The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 2). Humanity greatly needs to lay hold of the salvation brought by Christ. ...

All the Lord’s disciples are called to nurture the joy of evangelization. The Bishops, as those primarily responsible for this proclamation, have the task of promoting the unity of the local Church in her missionary commitment. ...

Many parts of the world are experiencing a dearth of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Often this is due to the absence of contagious apostolic fervour in communities which lack enthusiasm and thus fail to attract. The joy of the Gospel is born of the encounter with Christ and from sharing with the poor. For this reason I encourage parish communities, associations and groups to live an intense fraternal life, grounded in love for Jesus and concern for the needs of the most disadvantaged. Wherever there is joy, enthusiasm and a desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations arise. ...

“God loves a cheerful giver”. World Mission Day is also an occasion to rekindle the desire and the moral obligation to take joyful part in the mission *ad gentes*. A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way a material offering can become a means for the evangelization of humanity built on love.

Changes in the U.K.

Many thanks for being so faithful in sending out Into the Deep every month.

Let me share some experiences with you:

Last week I was in Winchester Cathedral and noticed a poster depicting the letter “N” in Arabic. “N” has been daubed on the houses of all known Christians in Mosul and Nineveh to identify the residents as Nazarenes. We all know what has happened. Holy Mass is no longer celebrated in Mosul. The poster was on display in the Cathedral behind a glass panel so that the visitors could identify with our fellow Christians in Mosul.

Re “Sign of Peace abuses corrected” (Sept ITD p.8):

I know a couple, happily married for 50 years. Every day when they attend Holy Mass at the “kiss of peace” the husband always whispers into his wife’s ear “Thank you for marrying me.” I think she approves.

Re “Let’s be seen to be Catholic” (Sept ITD p.7):

Back in the 50’s and 60’s all newly ordained Irish priests walked proudly down O’Connell Street in Dublin wearing their clerical dress. Sadly, one will not be able to identify any of these men today; “civvies” are their chosen attire.

Where I live in the U.K. the nuns always wore the habit in the days long gone. These “enlightened” sisters wear civvies today – each one of these nuns have now been replaced by hundreds of Muslim women who proudly wear the Burqa (just as Fulton Sheen predicted).

The number of female religious has fallen drastically, and by its very nature division has entered their respective orders because each woman dresses differently – incidentally, this is more costly when “the dear sisters” wish to wear a different outfit each day.

Interestingly the Greek words ‘dia ballein’, mean a tearing apart, a rendering asunder, which is the origin of our word for the devil, diabolical.

Anything which splits unity, which fragments, which destroys, which destroys community that is diabolic.

Pat Ryan, London, U.K.

From the ITD Blog

stoneswillshout.com/wp

Couldn’t Have Said It Better Myself:

“You orthodox men in Holy Orders, why are so many of you undetectable? Why are you hiding? What are you afraid of?” – This comes from a post by Anita Moore of the “V for Victory!” blog, forwarded to me by a friend. The post is titled: “To Men in Holy Orders: A Cri de Coeur”. It’s a brilliant post! Read it on the ITD blog or at v-forvictory.blogspot.com.au.

Some Observations Following the WCF Protests

Thank you for your coverage of the World Congress of Families in Melbourne. I make some observations from the newsclips that I saw of the protestors at that event. There was the one of a woman who gained entry to the venue wearing a white garment, and spilled red paint over her crotch area, screaming and gesticulating. There were others of those outside, mainly “gay”, wearing funky outfits and presenting themselves in exaggerated ways. It seems to me that none of the protestors captured in the newsclips would appeal to the general public, because they seemed like “crazies”.

I think that there are lessons to be drawn from this observation for us who are pro-family and pro-life when we are “protesting”. We need to present ourselves calmly, and without exaggeration. It needs more to be witness than protest, and more the witness of presence.

There are times and places and ways for us to communicate our “message”, but the times and places and ways are ones where we may be “heard”, and not just shouted-down.

My views are influenced by several years of participation in a long-standing prayer group that gathers outside the government abortion “clinic” in Canberra. It is a Catholic group, rather than an ecumenical group, insofar as we pray the Rosary approximately from 8am to 9am every Friday, with intention for the unborn and for all those who are caught up in that culture.

There have been times in the past where members have drawn aside and engaged in debate with those who challenge us. But those engagements have not been fruitful, and they are now generally avoided. People who protest come with fixed views and with single-line agendas. It’s easy for them to present exceptional and complex cases that require sophisticated reasoning to address. Our stand is on the basic premise of respect for human life from conception to natural death. I think that our members have come to realise that one can only converse reasonably with people who are reasonable. We have thus reinforced our understanding of our purpose as being present to pray and to stand in silent witness.

Winter in Canberra is quite severe, so we are generally left alone during that season. When the weather is more clement, we may get groups of feminists “camping in front of us”. They bring along rugs and coffee and eats, are mainly female university students with a sprinkling of males who seem more like female accessories than persons of confident masculine identity. Two signs are typical; a coathanger (presumably a non-clinical abortion instrument), and “Harrassment Free Zone” signage (yes, with harassment

mis-spelt). To any reasonable observer, the coathanger is a fabled anachronism, and ourselves calmly reciting the Rosary and not blocking public passage hardly seems “harassment”. Ours is witness more than protest.

Occasionally we get sworn at, and even physically hassled. I wear clericals and generally stand on the outside. I am a “gym freak”, and aggressive types are more wary about taking on an evidently fit male. Occasionally we get someone saying “Good on you!” or even joining briefly for prayer.

Our first trust is that our prayers will be used by God for better public health policy and for persons who may be drawn to abortion and for the repose of those whose lives are cut short by forced pregnancy termination. At least reasonable people should see that we are not “crazies”, and thus perhaps begin to rethink the prevailing assumptions about the termination of human life. Our signage is simple, such as “Pray for the unborn” and “Adoption - something we can both live with”.

It doesn’t seem that we achieve much, but we give to God this time of prayer and witness.

What I want most to convey in this contribution is that our public manner should be sharply different from such as the protestors who disrupted the Families Congress in Melbourne.

*Father P.A. McGavin,
priest of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and
Catholic Chaplain to the University of Canberra*

Family

Pope Francis, to Austrian Bishops, 30-01-2014

An important area of our work as shepherds, is the family. It is located at the heart of the evangelizing Church. ... The foundation upon which you can develop harmonious family life is mainly marital fidelity. Unfortunately, in our times we see that the family and marriage, in countries in the Western world, have suffered a profound interior crisis. ... Globalization and post-modern individualism promote a lifestyle that makes the development and stability of interpersonal relationships much more difficult and that is not conducive to promoting a culture of the family. ...

The Church’s concern for the family begins with good preparation and proper accompaniment of the bride and groom, as well as a faithful and clear presentation of Church doctrine on marriage and the family. As a sacrament, Marriage is a gift from God and, at the same time, a commitment.

Vatican Information Service, 31-01-2014

Church Authority

Sale's diocesan administrator, Fr Peter Slater, keeps writing in *Catholic Life* about his thoughts on transition. In the August issue, he relates this to the 'larger transition' he sees in the Church, more than simply our diocese being between bishops.

Couched in terms like "may be seen as", "many think", "others think", "there are indications", "it is suggested", "has hinted", Father Slater uses his space to spread the gossip that Pope Francis is somehow going to change the Catholic church into a democracy and abandon Catholic teachings – the myth that the Church is not hierarchical by nature. Apparently "commentators suggest" that the church is in the process of changing "from a monarchical and hierarchical model of leadership to a more diffuse and communitarian style", claims Fr Slater.

Now why would you spread this nonsense unless you believed it? Wouldn't it rather be the role of a Diocesan Administrator, if he wanted to mention this at all, to *explain* to his people why this is a nonsensical concept, to *teach* his people what the Catholic church believes and teaches about the Church being hierarchical *in nature*? It is not simply a 'form of leadership' or a 'model' that can be changed, but the essence of what the Church is, with Christ as her head, and with authority to teach.

Fr Slater goes on to mention what he sees as areas we need to work on "if" the Church changes to "greater local responsibility" – among them giving "greater weight" to the "mind of church members at diocesan and parish level". At the same time he acknowledges that sometimes parishioners can try to control the direction of the parish, which may not be according to "the church's vision."

Now how can he imply on the one hand that the church shouldn't impose its 'vision' on every little parish, and on the other hand say that sometimes parishioners or priests can impose a vision that is contrary to the 'vision' of the church? Either the Church has a 'vision' and authority that is universal, or it doesn't. You can't have it both ways.

One thing he says that "we do know", is that the Church is moving towards a "greater exercise of the role of all its members", supposedly through their Baptism and Confirmation. If that is the case, then let's hope and pray that Fr Slater and every other priest also "knows" that preparation for Baptism and Confirmation needs to be taken *seriously* by priests, so that people actually know what role it is that they are called to exercise. Because the role of the laity is certainly not "communitarian style of leadership in the church", nor "greater authority" to govern. If only our consecrated leaders understood and exercised their own authority, there wouldn't be all this confusion.

- Ed.

Christ's Faithful - Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life

Catechism of the Catholic Church

934 "Among the Christian faithful by divine institution there exist in the Church sacred ministers, who are also called clerics in law, and other Christian faithful who are also called laity." ...

935 To proclaim the faith and to plant his reign, Christ sends his apostles and their successors. He gives them a share in his own mission. From him they receive the power to act in his person.

936 The Lord made St Peter the visible foundation of his Church. He entrusted the keys of the Church to him. The bishop of the Church of Rome, successor to St Peter, is "head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ and Pastor of the universal Church on earth".

937 The Pope enjoys, by divine institution, "supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls".

938 The Bishops, established by the Holy Spirit, succeed the apostles. They are "the visible source and foundation of unity in their own particular Churches".

939 Helped by the priests, their co-workers, and by the deacons, the bishops have the duty of authentically teaching the faith, celebrating divine worship, above all the Eucharist, and guiding their Churches as true pastors. ...

940 "The characteristic of the lay state being a life led in the midst of the world and of secular affairs, lay people are called by God to make of their apostolate, through the vigour of their Christian spirit, a leaven in the world".

941 Lay people share in Christ's priesthood: ever more united with him, they exhibit the grace of Baptism and Confirmation in all dimensions of their personal family, social and ecclesial lives, and so fulfill the call to holiness addressed to all the baptized.

942 By virtue of their prophetic mission, lay people "are called...to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances and at the very heart of the community of mankind".

943 By virtue of their kingly mission, lay people have the power to uproot the rule of sin within themselves and in the world, by their self-denial and holiness of life.

944 The life consecrated to God is characterized by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, in a stable state of life recognized by the Church.

945 Already destined for him through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself to the God he loves above all else thereby consecrates himself more intimately to God's service and to the good of the whole Church.

Priests Who Look Like Priests

*Directory for the Ministry and the Life of Priests,
Congregation for the Clergy, 2013 (no.61)*

In a secularised and basically materialistic society where the external signs of sacred and supernatural realities tend to disappear, deeply felt is the need for the priest – man of God, dispenser of his mysteries – to be recognisable in the eyes of the community by his attire as well, and this as an unequivocal sign of his dedication and identity as holder of a public ministry.

The priest must be recognisable above all through his conduct, but also by his attire, which renders visible to all the faithful, and to each person, his identity and his belonging to God and to the Church. ...

[...T]he priest...must:

- a) wear either the cassock “or suitable ecclesiastical dress ...” (Code of Canon Law 284); when other than the cassock, attire must be different from the way laypersons dress and consonant with the dignity and sanctity of the minister...
- b) ...contrary practices... must be absolutely eliminated by the competent authority.

[...T]he non-use of ecclesiastical attire may manifest a weak sense of one’s identity as a pastor dedicated entirely to the service of the Church.

Moreover, in its form, colour and dignity the cassock is most opportune, because it clearly distinguishes priests from laymen and makes people understand the sacred nature of their ministry, reminding the priest himself that forever and at each moment he is a priest ordained to serve, teach, guide and sanctify souls...

New Feast Days

The Vatican has announced the feast days of the new saints: St John XXIII will be 11 October, and Saint John Paul II will be 22 October. The feast days are optional memorials.

Marlo Retreat

Fr Brendan Arthur will be leading a 4-day retreat at The Ark in Marlo, from Monday afternoon 10th November to Friday morning 14th November. Tridentine Masses will be celebrated. The title of the retreat is “The Mystical Body of the Church”.

Payment is by anonymous donation. Everything is provided: accommodation, home cooking, talks, Holy Mass, rosary, Stations of the Cross walks, beach walks, shrines, adoration, prayer and daily Benediction.

For booking and further information, phone 5154 8419.

Richard Earle, Marlo, Vic

The Strong Foundation

The true and main purpose of the Church in the world is religious. This is all too easily forgotten in the world of today, when the drive for success, fame, power, pleasure, notoriety etc. is so aggressive.

Revealed truth, the most reliable of all, is that Jesus, our saving Lord, is still in the Church in the world of today, no matter how things might seem to our puny minds.

Put very succinctly, “conservative” means to retain, to con-serve. It is averse to change and innovation, which mostly has not been tested, and which is usually about overthrowing the established order of things, just so unproven theories will allow new masters of control to take over.

Most societies of peoples, and associations and organizations, are conservative if they want to be successful. The Church is conservative too, but not as a political thing. It has continuity of belief, teaching and prayer from the days of Jesus to the present, even if expressed with variations in different times.

As I look around the suburbs and the city there is tremendous variety in the design and look of buildings, from family homes to multi-storey office blocks, but they all have one thing in common – a secure base, a strong foundation, upon which the whole edifice stands.

The Church needs to remember this and reinforce its foundations against the vicissitudes of our present time. No matter how strong the Church has been in a previous era, and how successful at getting its message across, it has to re-learn and re-establish the basic truths anew in a different era.

This renewal needs to take place in the minds and hearts of individual members of the Church also. If it doesn’t, Catholics will increasingly find themselves at odds with the Church because they have unwittingly taken on the values of the age, which will hardly be supportive of the faith of our fathers and the Church. It is the faith of Jesus Christ that makes us truly Catholic, not faith in successful man. Repent, is how Jesus opened his preaching of the Kingdom.

S.C., Melbourne, Vic

From the ITD Blog

A Greens Catholic: Yesterday our peaceful little domestic morning was interrupted by the front doorbell, and a cheery man wearing a solid green T-shirt was inviting us to vote for The Australian Greens Party. We immediately said, “No, definitely not interested”. Of all political parties, I think the Greens would have to rate at the very bottom of our list of...

Read more at stoneswillshout.com/wp

Saying It Over and Over, But Never Repeating

From a radio address by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, delivered 11-02-1951

If there is a heart in the audience that ever sent roses to a friend in token of affection or ever received them as a sign of remembrance, he will not be alien to this story of prayer!

Some deep instinct in humanity makes it link roses with joy. Pagan people crowned their statues with roses, as symbols of the offering of their own hearts. The faithful of the early Church substituted prayers for roses.

In the days of the early martyrs – I say “early” because the Church has more martyrs today than it had in the first four centuries – as the young virgins marched over the sands of the Coliseum into the jaws of death, they clothed themselves in festive robes and wore on their heads a crown of roses, bedecked fittingly to meet the King of Kings in whose name they would die. The faithful at night would gather up their crowns of roses and say their prayers on them, one prayer for each rose. Far away in the desert of Egypt, the anchorites and hermits were counting their prayers too, but in the form of little grains or pebbles strung together into a crown – a practice which Mohammed took for his Moslems. From this custom of offering spiritual bouquets arose a series of prayers known as the Rosary, for Rosary means “a crown of roses.”

From its first days the Church asked its faithful to recite the one hundred and fifty Psalms of David. This custom still prevails among the priests, for we are obligated to recite some of these Psalms every day in what is called the Breviary. But it was not easy for anyone to memorize the one hundred and fifty Psalms. Then too, before the invention of printing, it was difficult to procure a book. That was why certain important books like the Bible had to be chained like telephone books – otherwise people would run off with them. Incidentally, this gave rise to the stupid lie that the Church would not allow anyone to read the Bible because it was chained. The fact is, it was chained so people could read it. The telephone book is chained too, but it is more consulted than any book in modern civilization.

The people who could not learn the one hundred and fifty Psalms wanted to do something to make up for it. So they substituted one hundred and fifty “Hail Mary’s”. They broke up these one hundred and fifty into fifteen decades, or series often. Each decade was to be said while meditating on the different aspects of the Life of Our Lord. To keep each decade separate, each one began with the “Our Father” and ended with the Doxology of Praise to the Trinity.

St Dominic, who died in 1221, received from the Blessed Mother the command to preach and to popularize this devotion for the good of souls, conquest over evil and the prosperity of Holy Mother Church, and thus gave us the Rosary in its present classical form.

It is objected that there is much repetition in the Rosary because the Lord’s Prayer and the Hail Mary are said so often; therefore it is monotonous. That reminds me of a woman who came to see me one evening after instructions. She said: “I would never become a Catholic. You say the same words in the Rosary over and over again, and anyone who repeats the same words is never sincere. I would never believe such a person and neither would God.” I asked her who the man was who was with her. She said it was her fiancé. I asked “Does he love you?” “Certainly he does.” “But how do you know?” “He told me.” “What did he say?” “He said: ‘I love you.’” “When did he tell you last?” “About an hour ago.” “Did he tell you before?” “Yes, last night.” “What did he say?” “I love you.” “But never before?” “He tells me every night.” I said: “Do not believe him. He is repeating. He is not sincere.”

The beautiful truth is there is no repetition in “I love you.” Because there is a new moment of time, another point in space, the words do not mean the same as before. Love is never monotonous in the uniformity of its expression. The mind is infinitely variable in its language, but the heart is not. The heart of man in the face of the woman he loves is too poor to translate the infinity of his affection into different words. So the heart takes but one expression “I love you” and saying it over and over again, it never repeats. It is the only real news in the universe. That is what we do when we say the Rosary. We are saying to the Holy Trinity, to the Incarnate Saviour, to the Blessed Mother, “I love you,” “I love you,” “I love you.”

The beauty of the Rosary is that it is not just a vocal prayer. It is also a mental prayer. You have sometimes heard a dramatic presentation in which, while the human voice was speaking, there was a background of beautiful music giving force and dignity to the words. The Rosary is like that. While the prayer is being said, the heart is not hearing music but meditating on the Life of Christ, but applied to our own life and our own needs. As the wire holds the beads together, so meditation holds the prayers together. We often speak to people while our minds are thinking about something else. But in the Rosary we do not only say prayers; we think. Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Golgotha, Calvary, Mount Olivet and Heaven – all these move before our mind’s eye as our lips pray. The Rosary invited our fingers, our lips and our heart in one vast symphony of prayer, and for that reason is the greatest prayer ever composed by man.

Using Catholic Language

I recently wrote a blog post, "Let's be seen to be Catholics" (also in Sept ITD, p.7), suggesting ways we can bring back little things we do to be "seen" as Catholics by our behaviour. In the September issue of AD2000 (p.20), Sydney Catholic writer Audrey English wrote an article along similar lines, but in her article she was suggesting ways we can bring Catholic language back into our culture – almost like saying "Let's be heard to be Catholics"! Here are excerpts from her article. - Ed.

Carelessness in thought is reflected by carelessness in language. How often do we hear the "Oh, my God!" as a meaningless exclamation, in response to some remark. Even good Catholic people who have no intention of offending God do this unthinkingly. ... Unless the name of God is used as an emotional appeal, as an invocation or a prayer, it is preferable to avoid using it unnecessarily. ...

The new evangelisation calls us to permeate our society with the values of the Gospel. Since we are not politicians or prominent media figures, the ordinary person can only do this in the sphere in which they live. By restoring Catholic language to our culture, we can contribute powerfully to this new way of spreading the Gospel.

St John Paul II said that the world had forgotten the concept of sin. The idea of sin can easily be slipped into a conversation about the latest scandal in the media. Greed, the desire for money, power, sexual gratification need to be called sin. We can point out that such actions are an offence against God and destructive of society. ...

We talk of the environment but the Pope [Francis] calls it "creation", indirectly reminding us of the Creator. Many of his sayings are easy to reproduce.

The apostolate of the cup of coffee offers us many openings. It is easy to deflect a conversation away from idle gossip, into deeper matters, perhaps making a reference to God.

If someone tells us their troubles, we ought always to offer to pray for them. Even a person who professes to be a non-believer is usually grateful when you offer this. Anyway, it is at least introducing the name of God and perhaps the thought of God in their mind.

It is important not to act as if we were holier than others; but there is nothing to prevent us from mentioning to a Catholic friend that we have gone to confession since it may help lead to a discussion about reconciliation and the need for this sacrament.

If someone complains about being in pain, let us offer sympathy, offer to pray and suggest that they can "offer it up". We might say that penance here on earth helps us to acquire merit or lessens our time in Purgatory.

When we leave someone, what about replacing the "have a good day" with "God bless" as a way of introducing the idea of God in our daily lives. ...

www.ad2000.com.au

Open Letter to Father Benedict La Volpe

Dear Father,

Since one of your confreres has said you won't accept any more letters from me, ITD is the only avenue I can think of to communicate with you.

On Friday 8 Aug (Feast of St Mary of the Cross) I offered you a flyer advertising 40 Days for Life (24 Sept - 2 Nov) asking that it be put on St Joseph's Church notice board. While refusing to accept the flyer, you said in a very loud voice that I had made 'judgmental' comments about you in ITD.

For the *first time in nine months*, you suddenly referred to my Nov 2013 ITD article, accusing me of questioning your Marian spirituality. A careful reading will show I did no such thing.

While you vociferously told me to make a permanent exit from your sight, I tried unsuccessfully to ask you to respond to ITD challenging alleged false or unfair statements on my part.

Reverend Father, if anything can be found in my articles that is uncharitable, false, unjust or in any way a non-Christian judgment, I sincerely promise I will *make a public apology*.

Meanwhile, since you constantly preach about serving Our Lord and Saviour, surely it means allowing your flock access to real opportunities to put their faith into practical action. Why, then, do you refuse to allow a 40 Days for Life flyer on the church notice board?

I'm sure you agree abortion is a deep spiritual, social and human issue that every Catholic needs to be aware of and act on according to talent, time and resources. Surely to deny parishioners such vital information conflicts with Our Lord's command to love all and especially to defend the helpless in whatever way we can. Every week hundreds of our unborn fellow-Victorians are denied the basic right to live, and so for their sakes 40DFL is worth advertising as widely as possible. Please reconsider your refusal to accept the flyer before it is too late.

Peter Phillips, Springvale, Vic

From the ITD Blog

Babette's Feast: Babette Francis' entertaining and enlightening summary of events relating to the organising of the recent World Congress of Families event in Melbourne: read it at stoneswillshout.com/wp.

Babette begins: "The heroine of the film "Babette's Feast" had a struggle to bring smiles to the faces of her dour employers and I was determined to do the same for all those who registered for the Melbourne Regional Event of the World Congress of Families, but I hadn't realised the formidable obstacles in my path."

Zero Contribution

Our country is in a great state of moral and spiritual decay. Right now there is a war going on against the truth about marriage and the family. More than anything else we need courageous orthodox leaders who will clearly proclaim the truth on marriage and family life in the public square.

Last month, thanks to the herculean efforts of Babette Francis, the World Congress of Families event was held at Catch the Fire Ministries centre in Hallam. This highly significant event on family life and marriage was held in Melbourne and what was the Church's contribution? Zilch!

Why? Because the Catholic hierarchy feared for their personal safety and could not bring themselves to speak at a Christian venue with a so-called 'anti-Catholic' reputation. Yes, they could not be in attendance because the only venue that gracefully offered to help Babette out, apparently had an 'anti-Catholic' reputation.

Let's face it, the Church in Australia has many bishops, priests, religious and organisations who have an 'anti-Catholic' reputation. The Church hierarchy was willing to attend a National Council of Catholic Priests (NCP) conference when the guest speakers had an anti-Catholic reputation and one of its main speakers had formally been censured. What about the anti-Catholic reputation of the NCP's publication the Swag? Not to mention the hierarchy's regular use of mainstream secular media outlets such as the ABC which frequently partakes in anti-Catholic sectarianism.

The World Congress of Families event was a great opportunity for our leaders to let the light of truth about marriage and the family shine out upon our society, and they were nowhere to be seen. In the heat of the moral and spiritual war against the enemies of truth, our leaders weren't even on the battlefield.

All it took to scare them off and to successfully pressure the Church out of the public square, was for a motley group of protesters to say they would turn up. Publicly this was embarrassing, and once again they were all put to shame by the unconquerable Babette Francis who reached out to Christians in our country who are crying out for clarity, truth and solidarity.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Vic

Sure Proof

Pope Francis, Seoul, 15-08-2014

"How can you understand whether you really love God? If you love your neighbour, if you do not have hate in your heart, that is a sure proof that you love God."

"If we are not united, if we are not holy, it is because we are not faithful to Him."

Pope Francis, 27-08-2014

Thanks for the Reports

Congratulations to ITD for its comprehensive and accurate description and commentary on the first three pages of the September ITD concerning the circumstances, the opposition and the message of the World Congress of Families conference which was finally held, perhaps appropriately, at Catch the Fire Ministries in Hallam on Saturday the 30th August.

As one of the 400 privileged to be there I can only applaud ITD for its thorough and unbiased report which predictably was in stark contrast to the media reports. At least we were not ignored!

I, and probably all those who attended this momentous conference, would like to join the Editor of ITD in conveying our heartfelt thanks to the brave and resourceful organiser, Babette Francis of Endeavour Forum and her helpers, Danny Nalliah for his excellent venue and his 'congregation' of helpers, the excellent speakers, caterers, and the police for their protection from the anti-life contingent.

Richard Earle, Marlo, Vic

Listen to Your Mother

Pope Francis, General Audience, 03-09-2014

In her motherly care, the Church strives to show believers the way to go to live a fruitful existence of joy and peace.

Illuminated by the light of the Gospel and upheld by the grace of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we can orient our choices towards the good and pass, with courage and hope, moments of darkness and more tortuous paths.

The path of salvation, through which the Church guides us and accompanies us with the power of the Gospel and the support of the Sacraments, gives us the ability to defend ourselves from evil.

The Church has the courage of a mother who knows that she must protect her own children from the dangers resulting from the presence of Satan in the world, to bring them to the encounter with Jesus.

This defence also consists of a call to vigilance: be on guard against the deception and seduction of evil.

Because even if God has conquered Satan, his temptations always return. We know this, we are all under attack. It is not for us to be naïve, but to be vigilant and stand firm in the faith, not to resist the advice of a mother, resist the help of mother Church. A good mother always accompanies her children in difficult moments.

Zenit.org 03-09-2014

Teaching the Lost Generation

Looking at the world today, it cannot be denied that it is sorely in need of something. What that thing may be however many disagree. Yet we, as baptised Catholics, and as history will show, must realise that the only thing which will heal the world's ills is the One True Faith of Jesus Christ.

In 1917 when Our Lady appeared at Fatima she called for prayer and penance. She said that if men amended their lives there would be peace for the world, if not the errors of Communist Russia would spread, and there would be wars and persecution of the church.

Well, for the most part it seems that her call has been ignored, and we have the present state of the world to prove it. As members of the One Catholic and Apostolic Church, we have an obligation to spread the good news of the gospel to all nations, continuing the works begun by the Apostles and the early Christians, continued down to this day.

The problem is that the majority of Catholics today, especially the youth, have heard almost nothing about the message of Fatima – if they have heard of it at all – and do not even know the fundamentals of the Faith. Much of this can perhaps be attributed to the earthmoving changes in the church and society which occurred during the 60's and 70's when the wheels seem to have fallen off the world, yet we cannot allow things to remain as they are. For Catholics to pass on the Faith they must know it well enough to love it enough to want to pass it on to others. However, in recent years, the truth has been watered down to be more “embracing” to the world, with an obviously negative effect, and the Catechism is rarely taught in schools, from the basics through to the more complex, if at all. If any Catholic does not wish to go to Mass and says that it and the faith are boring, that is because they have not been given the whole package of the faith and do not know what the Mass is. If any Catholic holds these views – which sadly so many do – it is surely because they have been misinformed and ripped off.

To help reclaim this lost treasure we have launched a blog to re-establish the Confraternity of Saint Michael the Archangel in an effort to continue the work of the late Fr Des Byrne who started the original Confraternity in 1992, perceiving that the young adults of his parish lacked a comprehensive understanding of the Catholic Faith.

The format of the confraternity meetings will be relatively the same; every Wednesday night at 7.00 we begin with the rosary, continued by a one-hour talk on the One True Catholic Faith from 7.30 onwards, followed by something to eat and a chat, with a 9.30 finish.

We do not intend this to be a youth group as such, and it is open to all ages, high school level up (which includes parents, who must know the faith to pass it on to their children). Ideally the talks should be provided by a priest willing to follow in the footsteps of Fr Byrne by instructing people (parents and children) on the Catechism of the Catholic Church (or the Baltimore Catechism as an alternative). In the absence of a priest the talks can be provided by St Michael's media, their Armour of God series coming almost word from word from the Baltimore Catechism.

You can join us as a group in West Gippsland (contact via blog), or if that's too far to travel, you could start your own group in your own home. Approach your parish priest to see if he would be interested (perhaps mentioning that the church will be a lot fuller if the parishioners know the faith); otherwise you can use the St Michael's Media resources available on the blog.

We need to honour the legacy of Fr Byrne who taught the post Vatican II generation (also known as the Lost Generation) – the Catechism – a thing for which I and many others are indebted to him, as our parents learnt the fullness of the faith from him and have passed it on to us, that we might not find ourselves in a similar situation.

We can only really do all this if we make sure children, and parents know the Catechism and their faith also. We hope you will join us regardless of where you live in bringing the Confraternity back to life. It's time to wake up, to stand up, and stand out, living the faith every day, so that like salt which causes one to thirst after water, our example may cause the world to be drawn to the Living Water, which is Christ.

*Andrew Murphy, Bunyip, Vic
confraternityofsaintmichaelthearchangel.com*

Reconciliation

Pope Francis, to Austrian Bishops, 30-01-2014

The Church ‘embraces in its bosom sinners’. But the council says in the same passage that we should not resign ourselves to sin, that is...the holy Church is always in need of being purified. That means that we must always be committed to our purification, in the sacrament of Reconciliation. ... As pastors of the Church we want to assist the faithful with tenderness and understanding in this wonderful sacrament, to make them feel the Good Shepherd's love precisely in this gift. I ask you, therefore, not to tire of inviting people to encounter Christ in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Vatican Information Service, 31-01-2014

Five Paths of Repentance

From a homily by Saint John Chrysostom

Would you like me to list also the paths of repentance? They are numerous and quite varied, and all lead to heaven.

A first path of repentance is the condemnation of your own sins: Be the first to admit your sins and you will be justified. For this reason, too, the prophet wrote: I said: I will accuse myself of my sins to the Lord, and you forgave the wickedness of my heart. Therefore, you too should condemn your own sins; that will be enough reason for the Lord to forgive you, for a man who condemns his own sins is slower to commit them again. Rouse your conscience to accuse you within your own house, lest it become your accuser before the judgment seat of the Lord. That, then, is one very good path of repentance.

Another and no less valuable one is to put out of our minds the harm done us by our enemies, in order to master our anger, and to forgive our fellow servants' sins against us. Then our own sins against the Lord will be forgiven us. Thus you have another way to atone for sin: For if you forgive your debtors, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

Do you want to know of a third path? It consists of prayer that is fervent, careful and comes from the heart.

If you want to hear of a fourth, I will mention almsgiving, whose power is great and far-reaching.

If, moreover, a man lives a modest, humble life, that, no less than the other things I have mentioned, takes sin away. Proof of this is the tax-collector who had no good deeds to mention, but offered his humility instead and was relieved of a heavy burden of sins.

Thus I have shown you five paths of repentance: condemnation of your sins, forgiveness of our neighbour's sins against us, prayer, almsgiving and humility.

Do not be idle, then, but walk daily in all these paths; they are easy, and you cannot plead your poverty. For, though you live out your life amid great need, you can always set aside your wrath, be humble, pray diligently and condemn your own sins; poverty is no hindrance. ...

Now that we have learned how to heal these wounds of ours, let us apply the cures. Then, when we have regained genuine health, we can approach the holy table with confidence, go gloriously to meet Christ, the king of glory, and attain the eternal blessings through the grace, mercy and kindness of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ITD Reader Survey

Please complete this survey and post it to ITD – by mail, or scan and email, or do the online version of the survey on the blog – all contact details on p.12.

Thank you! I'll summarise results in the next issue.

1. How long have you been reading ITD?

- Just started
- 1-5 years
- 6-11 years
- Always have since the beginning

2. How do you read ITD?

- Online
- You send it to me, thanks
- Someone gives me a printed copy
- I get it online but then print it out to read

3. How much of ITD do you read?

- Everything, from cover to cover
- About half of it
- I skim through it and read one or two articles
- I only read the regular things I like best
- Other:

4. Which parts of ITD are your favourites?

- The Pope's homilies or addresses
- Letters to the editor
- The short quotes
- Single-column articles
- Full-page articles
- Excerpts from the Catechism and Church documents
- Other:

5. What would you like to see more of in ITD?

.....

6. What would you like to see less of in ITD?

.....

7. Do you pass ITD on to others? How many?

8. How often do you visit the ITD blog?

- I haven't yet
- Only once so far
- About once a month
- About once a week
- More often than once a week
- Other:

9. Where are you from?

.....

10. Any comments about ITD or the blog?

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Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfld	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30am Heyfield 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr	Wednesday (Low Mass 10am) 10.30 – 11am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Cranbourne	Friday and Saturday in the Church: (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am First Friday 4pm – 8pm (every second month, December onwards)
Heyfield Ord'te	4 th Sunday 4pm Evensong & Benediction
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) 9.30am – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 10am – 6pm (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 12.30pm First Friday 11.30am – 4pm
Trafalgar	Wednesday and First Saturday: (9.30am Mass) 10am – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am First Friday 4pm – 8pm (every second month, January onwards)
Wonthaggi	First Friday 7pm – 8pm

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!

Pope John Paul II

Pray for the Synod

The Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has asked for prayer for the Third General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The Synod will take place 5-19 October on the theme "Pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation". It is recommended that the faithful pray the Rosary for the work of the Synod, in the days preceding and during the Synod.

Contact *Into the Deep*

Blog - stoneswillshout.com/wp

Email - stoneswillshout@bigpond.com

Website (old) - www.stoneswillshout.com

Mail - **12 Vincent Road, Morwell, Vic 3840
Australia**

- Please contact ITD if you would like to be added to the regular monthly mailing list (email or hard copy).
- There is no subscription fee; we rely on donations only.
- ITD's bank details for direct deposits:
Account name: Janet Kingman
BSB: 013-745
Account number: 2901-63632
 - Cheques made out to Janet Kingman.
- Donate via Ritchies Supermarkets Community Benefit program by nominating Into the Deep, CB number 81799.

ITD is released on or around the first day of each month by email and on the blog; printed copies about a week later. Deadline for contributions is one week before the end of the month (but preferably by the 15th of the month).

Editor - Janet Kingman

The purpose of ITD is to provide a forum for those who:

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, and other diocesan newspapers,
- wish to understand and defend the teachings of the Catholic Church,
- wish to support and defend those who are unjustly treated by Church bureaucrats and organisations,
- wish to campaign for the renewal of our Catholic schools,
- wish to promote Eucharistic adoration in all parishes,
- wish to have a means of support and contact for one another in remaining true to our Catholic faith.

Letters to the Editor

Readers are encouraged to contribute letters or articles. We cannot guarantee that all will be published, and we reserve the right to edit letters. 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.

Name and contact details must accompany letters. However, if there is sufficient reason, anonymity will be preserved when publishing. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of ITD.

*"Who except God can give you
peace? Has the world ever been
able to satisfy the heart?"*

St Gerard Majella