

Into the Deep

Issue 152

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

August 2015

A Prayer for Priests

St Therese of Lisieux

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with your precious blood. Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labours with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here, and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

The Assumption

Pope Benedict XVI, Feast of the Assumption 2010

Veneration of the Virgin Mary has accompanied the path of the Church since the beginning; Marian feasts began to appear already in the 4th century: exalted in some is the role of the Virgin in the history of salvation; celebrated in others are the principal moments of her earthly existence.

The meaning of today's feast is contained in the final words of the dogmatic definition proclaimed by the Venerable Pius XII (1950): "The Ever Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, ending the course of her earthly life, was taken to heavenly glory in soul and body".

Artists of all times have painted and sculpted the holiness of the Mother of the Lord adorning churches and shrines. Poets, writers and musicians have paid tribute to the Virgin with liturgical hymns and songs. From East to West the All Holy One is invoked as heavenly Mother, who holds the Son of God in her arms and under whose protection the whole of humanity finds refuge, with the very ancient prayer: "We shelter under your protection, Holy Mother of God: despise not our petitions in our needs, but deliver us from all danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin."

Zenit.org 16-08-2010

False Peace

Pope Benedict XVI,

in his message for the World Day of Peace 2013

Those who insufficiently value human life and, in consequence, support among other things the liberalization of abortion, perhaps do not realize that in this way they are proposing the pursuit of a false peace. The flight from responsibility, which degrades human persons, and even more so the killing of a defenceless and innocent being, will never be able to produce happiness or peace.

Indeed how could one claim to bring about peace, the integral development of peoples or even the protection of the environment without defending the life of those who are weakest, beginning with the unborn.

Every offence against life, especially at its beginning, inevitably causes irreparable damage to development, peace and the environment. ...

There is also a need to acknowledge and promote the natural structure of marriage as the union of a man and a woman in the face of attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different types of union; such attempts actually harm and help to destabilize marriage, obscuring its specific nature and its indispensable role in society.

These principles are not truths of faith, nor are they simply a corollary of the right to religious freedom. They are inscribed in human nature itself, accessible to reason and thus common to all humanity. The Church's efforts to promote them are not therefore confessional in character, but addressed to all people, whatever their religious affiliation.

Efforts of this kind are all the more necessary the more these principles are denied or misunderstood, since this constitutes an offence against the truth of the human person, with serious harm to justice and peace.

Zenit.org 14-12-2012

*"It is better to be the child of God
than king of the whole world."*

St Aloysius Gonzaga

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

Silent Retreat

Following the successful First Day on 18th July, the Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family invites you to participate in the following Two Days of:

Retreat/Quiet Days: Days of stillness and silence

Deepening Prayer: Seeking God's Presence

Led by Fred Hardy ThL(Hons), MA(Spirituality), MDiv

Held at St Brigid's Catholic Church, Cowwarr

Saturday August 29th: 9.30am-4pm

Prayer: Oratio/Meditatio

Saturday October 24th: 9.30am-4pm

Contemplatio

Each day will include an introduction and two addresses, Mass, Angelus, Rosary, lunch (BYO), time for Confession, and Evening Prayer. After arrival at 9.30am, the retreat days will be *silent* (lunchtime included) from 9.50 when the day formally begins. Mass will be at 10am.

The three days are designed to build on one another, but everyone is welcome, even if you missed the first day (there are hand-outs from the talks).

Fr Ken Clark OLSC, Maffra, Victoria

Notes on Prayer

Some notes from Day One of the Silent Retreat (see above) - Ed.

We do not seek or call God – we respond. He seeks us, calls us first. When we pray, we are simply responding, hearing, listening.

Desire is the driving force of prayer. To pray is to desire. We were created for prayer. Prayer is as natural to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives.

We are solitary in prayer – waiting and listening in silence, trying to empty ourselves of all distractions. Still the mind. Deeper silence brings us in touch with our unmasked selves.

Silence in prayer is an activity rich in relevance and outreach to the world. Although it is solitary, we are never alone, it is never simply a private affair.

Pray with the certainty of being heard. When the disciples prayed in the name of Christ, they knew him, knew who they were talking to, and expected/knew he would respond. Their relationship was real.

The tax collector's wonderful prayer: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. We need to recognise our need for God's mercy, before we can receive it.

Personal prayer emerges from and returns to the prayer of the community of faith. The early Church understood that its prayer was joined with the continuing prayer of Christ, interceding for us.

If God seems absent – persevere. Listen. God is always with us. He *is* there.

When all seems lost, remember this is *God's* world.

Keep Running the Race

I wish to commend Peter Phillips (July ITD, p.8) and the great number of other lay faithful who, like him, approach the present crises with supernatural outlook.

It is critical that we Christians respond to even the most disastrous developments with serenity, good humour, and faith in Jesus Christ.

This is the way of the saints. It is the way of the great confessors and martyrs. Now, more than ever, we need heroic confessors of the faith.

I wish to assure readers of *Into the Deep* that I especially remember the long-suffering lay faithful at my daily Mass, and commend them – and their families – to our Blessed Mother, whose Immaculate Heart will triumph in our lifetimes, I'm sure.

Keep running the race. Fight the good fight.

Godspeed.

Fr John Corrigan, Hamilton, Victoria
www.acountrypriest.com

Ordinariate Unity Day

Have you ever wondered who and what the Ordinariate is? Why are they different? What about them makes them a distinctive worshipping community? You now have your chance to see who and what we are.

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross is one of three non-geographical dioceses of former Anglicans (Australia/Japan, England, North America) who in 2009 accepted Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to enter communion with Rome while retaining much of their own English patrimony.

During the Ordinariate Clergy Residential Conference in 2014, it was agreed that around the feast of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, each Ordinariate community would invite friends, fellow Catholics, supporters and other interested people to an event during which they could meet us, but also experience a little of our worship and life.

The Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family in Gippsland will be hosting a day in honour of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Heavenly Patroness of the Ordinariate:

Sunday 30th August, 10am, St Michael's Catholic Church, Heyfield

Sung Mass from the high altar, Procession of Our Lady, Ordinariate talk (history, patrimony, its place in the Catholic Church), Benediction, and Lunch.

Other Ordinariate communities in Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth will be holding similar events on the same day highlighting the Ordinariate to the wider Catholic Community. I trust you can join us.

Fr Ken Clark OLSC, Maffra, Victoria

Profanity in Movies

I just saw a movie at the cinemas which was harmless enough except for crude language and a couple of times The Lord's most holy name was profaned. I have no idea why the producers think they need such language, but I do think it is well past time that Christians start to complain.

If I was to know that His name would be taken in vain then I would not have gone to see it. I encourage people to write to the Film Classification Board and ask that any film where Our Lord's Name is profaned has a classification to denote profanity as distinct from "coarse language".

In my letter to the Board, I stated that profaning Jesus' most holy Name is not the same as coarse language. It is very offensive to Christians, so much so that the Bible says that all should bow at the mention of His Name and that it is the Name by which we are saved. I also wrote that I had written to them years ago complaining about this and asking them to bleep out the offensive words like what used to happen. I understand that they can't stop it being used, but maybe with a new symbol we would be aware of it in the movie and choose not to see it.

In their reply they said they use the Classification Act, the National Classification Code, and the Guidelines for Classification, and that none of these specifically identify blasphemy as a classifiable element.

They added, "Owing to the widely differing views held in our community it is not always possible to make decisions which satisfy everyone. The Board seeks to reflect current community standards when making decisions and takes note of the comments and views expressed in any correspondence received."

If the board was inundated with similar letters then something may happen. Their contact details are as follows:

Classification Branch
Attorney-General's Department
Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240
Ph (02) 9289 7100 Fax (02) 9289 7179
correspondence@classification.gov.au

Maureen Wright, Lurnea, New South Wales

Please Pray for Him

The death of my brother, Vincent Phelan, on May 25th, has brought me great sorrow. He was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers until about the end of 1968 when he left the Order and over the following years left his faith. It is a long and painful story. He is in God's care; His Divine Mercy. Please pray for Vincent.

Therese Hagan, Brisbane, Queensland

In Need of Moral Rebirth

Pope Francis, Ecclesial Congress of the Diocese of Rome, 14-06-2015

As you know, for some years we have been reflecting on and asking ourselves how to transmit the faith to the new generations of the city that...is in need of a true and proper moral and spiritual rebirth. And this is a very intense task.

Our city must be reborn morally and spiritually, because it seems that everything is the same, that everything is relative; that the Gospel is a lovely story of beautiful things, that it is good to read it, but it remains there, an idea. It does not touch the heart! ...

And this commitment is all the more important when we speak of the education of kids and young people, who begin to hear these strange ideas, these ideological colonizations that poison the soul and the family: one must act against this.

Two weeks ago a person, a very Catholic, good, young man said to me that his kids were in first and second grade and that in the evening he and his wife so often had to "re-catechize" the children, the kids because of what they reported about some of the teachers in the school or because of what the books said that were given there – these ideological colonizations, that do so much harm and destroy a society, a country, a family. Therefore we are in need of a true and proper moral and spiritual rebirth.

In October we will hold a Synod on the Family, to help families to rediscover the beauty of their vocation and to be faithful to it. Jesus' words are lived in the family: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". With your conjugal relationship, exercising paternity and maternity, you give your life and are proof that it is possible to live the Gospel: it is possible to live the Gospel and it renders one happy.

Zenit.org 15-05-2015

Church as Sacrament

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, on Lumen Gentium, 1977

More than ten years after the promulgation of the text [Lumen Gentium], it must be admitted that the concept of the Church as a sacrament is not yet deeply entrenched either in the consciousness of the Church or in theology. While the expression "people of God" spread with the speed of wind and today is equally at home in the vocabularies of bishops, pastoral councils, professors, and ordinary believers, the word "sacrament" as a designation for the Church is in no one's mouth. Yet the Council intended the two expressions to be mutually complementary and explanatory; only against the background provided by the concept "sacrament" can the concept "people of God" become meaningful.

The Principles of Catholic Theology, p.45

Be Prepared

Thanks for the latest ITD. There's so much reading to keep up with that I usually read ITD in bits and pieces while on or waiting for public transport. This time I found myself 'devouring' most of it within 24 hours of receiving it. I was really moved by your 'Jesus, I Trust in You?' on page 9.

May I share with you my heartfelt belief that your constant courage, deep faith and discernment in researching and producing ITD must be a living inspiration as much for your other readers as they are for me.

We are surrounded and hounded by relativism, hatred, anti-religion, twisted 'rights' and 'choices' and all the other evils St Paul (among others) describes in his writings.

May I also share with you a prayer I have shared with others: Rest your weary head on Mother Mary's lap and allow her to enfold you in her soothing mantle. Maybe you do this already.

Whatever interpretation people wish to place on the outcome of contemporary events/crises/trials, at least we can be aware of our own personal role to respond with courage, faith and confidence to follow God's law as we surge along in the 'tossed ship of the Church' towards our eternal homeland.

Isn't it reassuring how we can support each other on this hazardous journey through mutual prayer and encouragement? Now is the time, it seems, that the Scouts' motto "Be prepared" is more relevant than ever before in living memory.

Our Lord's own words would carry more weight: "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Let's persevere in prayer that we be ready for whatever tribulations lie ahead.

Peter Phillips, Springvale, Victoria

For the Sanctification of Humanity

Vita Consecrata n.32

As a way of showing forth the Church's holiness, it is to be recognized that the consecrated life, which mirrors Christ's own way of life, has an objective superiority. Precisely for this reason, it is an especially rich manifestation of Gospel values and a more complete expression of the Church's purpose, which is the sanctification of humanity. The consecrated life proclaims and in a certain way anticipates the future age, when the fullness of the Kingdom of heaven, already present in its first fruits and in mystery, will be achieved, and when the children of the resurrection will take neither wife nor husband, but will be like the angels of God (cf. Mt 22:30).

Vocation of Parents

Pope Francis, Ecclesial Congress of the Diocese of Rome, 14-06-15

We are all children, but to become a father and mother is a call from God! ... The Lord has chosen you to love one another and transmit life. These two things are the vocation of parents. This is a most beautiful call because it makes us be, in an altogether special way, in the image and likeness of God. To become a father and a mother truly means to be completely fulfilled, because it is to become similar to God. This is not said in the newspapers, it does not appear, but it is the truth of love.

As parents you are called to remind all the baptized that each one, although in different ways, is called to be a father or a mother. A priest, a Sister, a catechist is also called to spiritual paternity and maternity. ...

God calls men and women to be parents who believe in love, who believe in its beauty. ... Love is good even when parents quarrel; it is good because in the end they make peace. ... Conjugal love is a good, which not even the greatest difficulties of life are able to darken.

A child once said to me: "How lovely, my parents gave each other a kiss!" It's lovely when the child sees that father and mother kiss one another – a beautiful testimony.

Dear parents, your children are in need of discovering, of seeing in your life that it is beautiful to love one another. Don't ever forget that your children are always looking at you. ... They look so much and when they see that father and mother love each other, the children grow in that atmosphere of love, of happiness and also of security, because they are not afraid: they know they are secure in the love of the father and of the mother.

I allow myself to say an awful thing; we think how much children suffer when they see father and mother shout at one another, insult one another, and even hit one another every day. But, father and mother, when you fall into these sins, do you think that the first victims are in fact your children, your very own flesh? It's awful to think of this, but it is a reality. ...

Children look at us. They don't only look at you when you are teaching them something. They look at you when you speak to each other, when you return from work, when you invite your friends, when you rest. They try to gather from your look, from your words, from your gestures, if you are happy to have become parents, if you are happy to be husband and wife, if you believe that goodness exists in the world. They scrutinize you... to see if it's possible to be good and if it's true that with mutual love every difficulty is surmounted.

There is no greater witness for a child than to see his own parents love one another tenderly, respect one another, being kind to each other, forgiving one another; this fills children's heart with true joy and happiness. Before dwelling in a house made of bricks, children dwell in another house, which is even more essential: they dwell in the mutual love of their parents.

Zenit.org 15-05-2015

An Island Home

As I was writing on priestly fatherhood and family for ITD last month (p.6), I felt a deep sadness as a member of the great family, the Church. I realised that the timeless covenant structures of God's household, fatherhood and family, have not been realities that would describe my experiences and relationships in that household as one of God's children. And even though father is the most common title used in the holy mother Church to respectfully address priests, the actions, words and lifestyle of many priests in our diocese and beyond, have left me wondering if they are aware that spiritual fatherhood is central and integral to the priestly office they hold.

When I finally encountered a parish priest who did realise this, and responsibly and seriously acted like a father of souls, the bishop canonically removed him for not being 'his kind of priest'.

Immediately after Fr Speekman's removal, the parish started degenerating into a typical chaotic, dysfunctional household where the children were constantly vying for control to be in charge.

Since then this parish, like many other parishes in the diocese, has not had a parish priest. These parishes more or less resemble households of cohabitation or divorce and remarriage, with a constant stream of administrators moving in and out. Tragically, these transient appointments, as well as the secularisation and protestantization of the priestly office, have gravely impoverished parish families spiritually.

However, in the midst of reflecting on my feelings of abandonment, betrayal and homelessness, I realised how blessed my wife and I have been through the establishment of the personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross by Pope Benedict XVI.

Gippsland's Parish of the Most Holy Family based in Heyfield, headed by Fr Ken Clark, has been an island home in an ocean of troubles, caused by impermanence and instability in our diocese. As an Ordinariate priest, he not only looks like a father of souls but behaves and leads like one, challenging all his parishioners to continue on that path of conversion which leads to holiness.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

Marlo Retreat

The next retreat at The Ark in Marlo will be:

- Fr Bernie McGrath: Thursday p.m. 24th September to Monday a.m. 28th September.

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

*Richard Earle, Marlo, Victoria
Ph 5154 8419*

Anointed Walls

Answered by Fr Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy and dean of theology at the Regina Apostolorum university

Q: The traditional practice, now optional, of installing consecration crosses and candles to mark the places where the walls of a church were anointed during the rite of dedication is still maintained in many places. The rubrics of the dedication rite include a ritual for lighting them during that ceremony. I cannot find anything in the rubrics calling for or even allowing them to be lit on other occasions. ... Do you know of any source that identifies an authoritative custom on this point? - J.S., St. Louis, Missouri

A: The 12 consecration crosses or stones and candles mentioned by our reader are usually located around the walls of any consecrated Catholic church. These crosses are usually of stone or some other durable material; occasionally they are painted. These crosses and candles mark the 12 points where the church walls were solemnly anointed with sacred chrism and the candles were lit for the first time. In older churches there are also 12 crosses on the exterior walls of the building.

This term dedication of the church is now preferred to consecration. It is described in the Rite of the Dedication of a Church (n.16):

"...The anointing of the church signifies that it is given over entirely and perpetually to Christian worship. ...

"The lighting of the altar, which is followed by the lighting of the church, reminds us that Christ is 'a light to enlighten the nations'; his brightness shines out in the Church and through it in the whole human family."

The prayer used on these occasions is: "We now anoint this altar and this building. May God in his power make them holy, visible signs of the mystery of Christ and His Church."

The 12 candles stem from the symbolic use of this number in biblical tradition. The 12 stones used by Moses to build the altar of the covenant represented the 12 tribes of Israel. There are the 12 gates of the new Jerusalem mentioned in the Book of Revelation (21:12-14). Likewise, there are the 12 apostles. ...

As our reader mentioned, practice varies widely as to when the candles are lit. There is no official indication in present legislation. In such cases, traditional custom may be followed. According to this custom the candles may be lit on May 29 each year when all consecrated churches celebrate the solemnity of the Dedication. Otherwise they may be lit to mark the major feasts of the Church's year. This is a possibility and not an obligation but may be useful in order to enhance the solemnity of the celebration of certain feasts.

Zenit.org 14-07-2015

Selling Body Parts

Planned Parenthood abortionist Dr Deborah Nucatola has recently been caught on a video 'sting' happily discussing her expertise in killing half-born babies and offering their usable organs for sale to (assumed) affiliates agents for commercial (research) purposes.

It has now emerged that Dr Nucatola was one among several experts chosen by the Obama administration to craft federal guidelines on family planning i.e. access to contraception and abortion from 2010 to 2014.

Contently enjoying a salad lunch complete with a generous goblet of wine, Nucatola expounds on how she has mastered the art of crushing babies to death without damaging usable organs. It appears that human baby livers are particularly popular at the moment.

Planned Parenthood now realise that the story won't die on its own and nothing could be said to diffuse, debunk or ameliorate this offensive video. Liberal media outlets were desperate for ways to kill the story.

In the wake of the video expose, Planned Parenthood President, Cecile Richards issued a public apology for Dr Nucatola's "tone and statements" in the video and rejected outright the claim that Planned Parenthood profits "in any way" from the sale of foetal parts.

Self-described Catholic, Nancy Pelosi (Democratic Leader in the U.S. House of Reps) defends Planned Parenthood's removal of aborted babies' organs and instead calls for the whistle-blowers to be investigated. She says, "Planned Parenthood has said that they have done nothing illegal. They do not ever charge, which would be illegal, for fetal tissue. They have only defrayed the cost of mailing that to someone, which is not breaking the law."

Meanwhile, a further video expose has surfaced of Doctor Mary Gatter, President of Planned Parenthood's Medical Directors' Council, negotiating the price of the sale of "foetal tissue" – a US federal felony. Gatter haggles over the price of babies' body parts and jokes about wanting enough to pay for a Lamborghini. She also states a willingness to violate protocol by changing the abortion procedure to what she terms "a less crunchy technique" as it ensures more intact "specimens".

While in the U.S. there has been some limited mainstream media exposure to the videos, it has been enough for Congress to open up some investigations of Planned Parenthood's operations.

However, the interesting thing is that I've heard nothing in the Australian media on this. This goes to show how selective the media is when it wants to be. Watch and read the interviews and note how matter of fact the discussion is on selling aborted babies body parts. [Video links on ITD blog - Ed.]

When the diabolical becomes matter of fact, that's when you are witnessing real evil as it is seen as normal.

Damien Madden, Brisbane, Queensland

What is Music?

Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, on receiving a Doctorate honoris causa from the Pontifical University of John Paul II and the Musical Academy of Krakow

What is music? Where does it come from and where does it lead? I think there are three 'places' from which music arises.

The first wellspring is the experience of love. When human beings were seized by love, another dimension of being opened up within them, a new greatness and breadth of reality, driving them to express themselves in a new way. Poetry, hymn and music in general were born of the opening up of this new dimension of life.

A second origin of music is the experience of sadness, of being touched by death, by suffering and by the abysses of existence. In this case too, in the opposite direction, there open up new dimensions of life that do not find answers in discourse alone.

Finally, the third origin of music is the encounter with the divine, which from the beginning is part of what defines the human being. ...

It may be said that the quality of music depends on the purity and the greatness of the encounter with the divine, with the experience of love and pain. The purer and more authentic the experience, the purer and greater will be the music that emerges and develops from it.

Vatican Information Service, 04-07-2015

Everything Changes

Pope Francis to youth, 22-09-2013

Trust in Jesus and when I say this, I want to be sincere and say to you: I do not come here to sell you an illusion. I come here to say: there is a Person who can carry you through: trust in Him! He is Jesus, and Jesus is not an illusion! Difficulties must not frighten you, but rather press you to overcome them. Put out to sea and cast your nets wide ... with Jesus everything changes. The Word of the Lord has filled the nets, and the Word of the Lord gives effect to the missionary work of the disciples. Following Jesus is demanding, it means not being content with small objectives, with navigating close to the coast, but rather aiming high, with courage. ... When it seems that all is still and stagnant, when personal problems disturb us, social unease does not find the necessary solutions, we must not give up. The path is Jesus: let him embark with us and let us set out to sea with Him! Everything changes with Jesus. ... Set out to sea, come out of yourselves; let us come out from our little world and open ourselves to God, so that we might be ever more open to our brothers.

Vatican Information Service 22-09-2013

Prayer. Faith. Witness.

Pope Francis, Homily for Feast of Sts Peter and Paul, 28-06-2015

The reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, speaks to us of the first Christian community besieged by persecution. A community harshly persecuted by Herod who “laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the Church... proceeded to arrest Peter also... and when he had seized him he put him in prison”.

...I would like...to pay homage today to the courage of the Apostles and that of the first Christian community. This courage carried forward the work of evangelisation, free of fear of death and martyrdom, within the social context of a pagan empire; their Christian life is for us, the Christians of today, a powerful call to prayer, to faith and to witness.

A call to prayer: the first community was a Church at prayer: “Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church”. And if we think of Rome, the catacombs were not places to escape to from persecution but rather, they were places of prayer, for sanctifying the Lord’s day and for raising up, from the heart of the earth, adoration to God who never forgets his sons and daughters.

The community of Peter and Paul teaches us that the Church at prayer is a Church on her feet, strong, moving forward! Indeed, a Christian who prays is a Christian who is protected, guarded and sustained, and above all, who is never alone. ...

A call to faith: in the second reading Saint Paul writes to Timothy: “But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully... So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly Kingdom”. God does not take his children out of the world or away from evil but he does grant them strength to prevail. Only the one who believes can truly say: “The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want”.

How many forces in the course of history have tried, and still do, to destroy the Church, from without as well as within, but they themselves are destroyed and the Church remains alive and fruitful! She remains inexplicably solid, so that, as Saint Paul says, she may acclaim: “To him be glory for ever and ever”.

Everything passes, only God remains. Indeed, kingdoms, peoples, cultures, nations, ideologies, powers have passed, but the Church, founded on Christ, notwithstanding the many storms and our many sins, remains ever faithful to the deposit of faith shown in service; for the Church does not belong to Popes, bishops, priests, nor the lay faithful; the Church in every moment belongs solely to Christ. Only the one who lives in Christ promotes and defends the Church by holiness of life, after the example of Peter and Paul. ...

A call to witness: Peter and Paul, like all the Apostles of Christ who in their earthly life sowed the seeds of the Church by their blood, drank the Lord’s cup, and became friends of God. ...

A Church or a Christian who does not give witness is sterile... The Church has overcome evil thanks to the courageous, concrete and humble witness of her children. She has conquered evil thanks to proclaiming with conviction: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”.

Zenit.org 30-06-2015

Wake Up the World!

All are invited to a *free* event, sponsored by Association for the Promotion of Religious Life, Australia.

(This conference is NOT a vocations drive or discernment weekend. It’s about education in the faith of the Church!)

- **Where?** Come to St Benedict’s Parish Hall, Notre Dame campus, Broadway, **Sydney**, and gain new faith knowledge and insights.
- **When?** Youth session - **Saturday 22nd August** (evening), 6pm-9pm, with free pizza meal. Topics include: God is the All; I am not my own; Reality or unreality; Values or anti-values; Eternity beckons.
- General Session - **Sunday 23rd August** (Day). Mass at 10.30 at St Benedict’s Church. Topics include: Vatican II - what we said it said; what it really said; the role of Religious in the Church, what went wrong? How to fix it. And much more. Concluding at 4.30pm. BYO lunch.
- **Who’s invited?** Parents, clergy, young adults, uni-students, seminarians, religious and *anyone* concerned about the life and holiness of the Church!

Speakers include Sisters from the Conventual Sisters of St Dominic; Friars from the Friars of St Francis; Fathers from the Confraternity of Christ the Priest; other religious and parents of religious. There is no need for registration.

The Conventual Sisters of St Dominic, Ganmain, New South Wales

Slippery Slope to Barbarism

Every day in Australia up to 250 pre-born girls and boys are sentenced to death, the number of children in smaller primary schools. This means up to 100,000 pre-born per year are painfully killed for convenience, or for a bigger workforce and more taxes.

Ultrasound and scientific genetics show clearly these embryos are human persons from conception. Unlike many natural deaths and accidents, etc., these figures are not put in the media so that “out of sight is out of mind”.

In the 19th century, many young and old Africans were violently shipped to the British West Indies and USA to become slaves to save the costs of paying servants. There was big money in the slave trade financed by otherwise “respectable” people hardened by the “politically correct” ideas of the time, that the slaves were “inferior”. John Newton, a slave-running sea captain and a Christian, helped William Wilberforce to arouse Parliament to give negro slaves the proper natural human rights and freedoms we now take for granted (except for pre-born children when it suits some of us).

Similarly, in the 19th century in the UK, many children and labouring class men were cruelly exploited in the mines and mills and worked or starved to death as the considered fate of the working class from the Industrial Revolution. Anthony Shaftesbury, also a practising Christian, suffered great opposition in his efforts to promote the development of the many good and just working conditions we now take for granted.

No doctor, parent, or government entity can claim the right to impose the death sentence on any innocent human person, no matter how disabled, inconvenient, unwanted or useless that life might seem to be. Human life is precious – our greatest value, asset and resource and must be protected as sacred from the moment of conception to its natural end. Otherwise we are on the slippery slope to barbarism.

Yet doctors in Australia can arrange the death of pre-born babies almost on request, and some are beginning the move also to end the lives of the young or old, handicapped or “useless eaters” to pander to eugenicists who want human society to be like the producers of the best commodities on an Animal Farm.

Mothers in crisis need abundant care, and the elderly and handicapped likewise. We might wonder who cares anymore?

Without the traditional standards of the morality of life, marriage, and family of our heritage we will never have true peace and prosperity.

Fr Bernard McGrath, Bendigo, Victoria

Bleak Future

It doesn't matter which party won the last election because this beautiful country, Australia, as we know it, may soon cease to exist. The lobby groups, fanatics and the parliamentarians who are leading this attack to redefine marriage and family so that it becomes lawful for same sex couples to “marry”, have no idea that they are just puppets.

Not everyone has realised that we are well and truly engaged in spiritual warfare and we have done our best to get rid of God in every possible way. Satan does exist and he believes in God, but being the liar that he is, he has convinced many people that he doesn't exist and that there is no God.

Christians believe that all people, including those with same-sex attraction, are called by God to live chastely and that by God's grace and support of friends they can and should grow in fulfilling God's plan (ACBC, Don't Mess with Marriage). But for many years now society has been bombarded with a relentless well-organised Satanic push for same-sex marriage.

We have seen in Ireland recently that 1500 years of civilization came to an end as hundreds of millions of US dollars were poured into the Irish nation by pagan Americans to influence the National Referendum so that homosexuality would be voted to be equal to traditional marriage. My question is: What does it gain the homosexual lobby group to have the law changed so that they can rule Ireland but lose their soul and spend an eternity in Hell? ...

They have been very successful in casting themselves as victims in need of protection, rather than focussing on the reality of homosexual behaviour which they know will repel and shock people. As a result, a majority of people, including many of those in parliament, have lost the sense of sin. But God hasn't. We see in Romans Chapter 1, *instead, they made nonsense out of logic and their empty minds were darkened ... That is why God has abandoned them to degrading passion: why their women have turned from natural intercourse to unnatural practices, and why their menfolk have given up natural intercourse to be consumed with passion for each other, men doing shameless things with men and getting an appropriate reward for their perversion...*

There are countless reasons why the definition of marriage should not be changed, and there is only one reason why it should, and that is so that those who take part in the unnatural practices condemned by God, want those practices to be seen as normal, and for Christians to turn against the teachings of Our Lord. When parliamentarians lose the sense of sin, they cannot govern a country justly. Our cycle of life is: Birth, Life, Death, Judgement, Heaven or Hell for eternity. A country that slaps God in the face and says, “Lord, Your teachings are out of date”, has a very bleak future, if any future at all.

Brian Rooney, Melbourne, Victoria

The Silent Majority

The current campaign to legalise so called same sex marriages by Bill Shorten, Tanya Plibersek and an increasing number of Australian politicians seeking popularity and political correctness, is being promulgated endlessly by the media. Their argument seems to be based on so-called equal rights and that it will generate more money in the economy through lavish “weddings”. Neither the media, the politicians, nor the “do-gooders” among us seem to think that same sex marriage will affect anyone else.

Society is already suffering (especially children) as a result of:

- Sex education in schools.
- The promotion of sex as a harmless recreation.
- The marketing and promotion of so-called contraception and ‘safe sex’.
- An escalation of readily available pornography.
- The promotion of easy, ‘no fault’ divorce.
- Easily available and now legalised abortion up to birth.
- The media at large promoting same sex relations, gender ‘choice’ and now so called same sex marriages.

Society supported by the law is supposed to tolerate the LGBT agenda but, for their part, they will not tolerate the majority having views contrary to theirs e.g. US Military Personnel being demoted or sacked, bakers, photographers, motel owners and marriage celebrants have been fined and, in some cases, imprisoned for following their conscience in these matters.

The results are there for all to see but it is politically incorrect at best, and a crime at worst, to mention them in print, in Parliament and even in most churches e.g.

- Abortion trauma and grief, increased self-abuse and drug dependency, depression and suicide, especially in post abortive women.
- The currently promoted Safe Schools Coalition (and even more so when/if same sex marriage is legalised) is causing even more confusion, depression and mental illness by telling children they can choose their sex and practise it with children of either gender. Result: even more abortion, drug abuse, gender confusion, youth violence, homelessness and suicide.
- An increase in family violence and child sex abuse within families which currently is far worse than it is in church and state institutions; but it is hardly mentioned because victims, real or imagined, can’t make money out of it.

All that evil needs to thrive, is for good people to do nothing. The silent majority of Australians are, by and large, hard-working mums and dads trying to do the best for their kids. Do we have to sit and watch our country, its formerly Judeo-Christian values, our children’s moral well-being and stability, destroyed by the relentless propaganda of popularity-seeking and money-seeking politicians and media outlets?

Good politicians and church leaders need to speak out and save our society from suffering the same fate as the Roman Empire or Sodom and Gomorrah. Our good leaders need to rally our sleeping, silent majority and tell them a few facts even if they are politically incorrect i.e.

- Gender is not a choice. It is a gift like sight or hearing. Obviously we need to help those who suffer or are disabled in any way.
- Marriage is by definition possible only between two adults of the opposite sex who are open to the possibility of having children.
- There is no law preventing homosexuals from marrying. Anyone can marry provided they meet the criteria for marriage.
- Homosexuals are NOT discriminated against in our society. Legally they can live together.
- Children have a right, where possible, to grow up in a stable family with a mother and a father.
- If homosexuals are allowed children through adoption, surrogacy or sperm donation, this creates another stolen generation at best.
- It is impossible for two people of the same sex to marry each other just as it is impossible for men to be mothers or for blind people to see.
- If homosexuals think they do not have equal rights to heterosexuals regarding marriage then what about those who want to marry children, or several people, or their dog... Where does it stop?

Richard Earle, Marlo, Victoria

Year of Consecrated Life

The Conventual Sisters of St Dominic in Ganmain, NSW, have put together these paragraphs on the simple truths of Religious Life to mark the Year of Consecrated Life.

15. Penance and Asceticism in Religious Life

While penance and asceticism are part and parcel of the Christian life in general, Religious freely bind themselves to living out ways of penance that reflect a closer following of Christ in His redemptive suffering and proclaim the truth that 'here we have no abiding city'.

The Vows of Religion are the central source of asceticism because they call for the renunciation of the chief goods of this world and are the proof of the highest form of love.

Other avenues of penance for Religious are to be found in living by the demands of a Rule which usually involves silence, early rising, fasting, extended hours of prayer, the give-and-take of the common life, and various imposed duties and responsibilities.

These forms of penance and asceticism are purifying and fulfilling rather than burdensome for the Religious who really desires to give him/herself to God, who relies on God's grace and who knows the redemptive value of the Cross.

17. Formation in Religious Life

A religious is called and consecrated to God not just once, but throughout his/her whole life.

He/she is being constantly formed to become more and more like Christ.

This involves a constant, genuine, on-going conversion.

It begins with the early stages of induction into the life of the community and the preparation for making Religious Vows. These stages usually take some years since they lead to that life-long consecration to God which will, if lived faithfully, enable the religious to grow towards his/her goal of perfect charity.

Every Religious Community must have in its Rule or Constitution a formal plan for forming its members – not just in their initial years, but 'on-going'; life-long.

God is the One who really forms the religious person by means of His grace.

But He does this through His Word, the Sacraments, the Liturgical Prayer of the Church and the Magisterium, as well as through human superiors and 'formators' – those appointed to assist in the formation of their brothers and sisters.

16. The Relationship of Religious to the Church

- Religious do not belong to a kind of half-way house between the laity and the priesthood.
- Their place is not in the hierarchy but in the 'charismatic' dimension of the Church – the 'gift' dimension.
- While the ministerial priesthood is the highest form of *service* in the Church, Religious life is the highest form of *life-style*.
- Priests are called to *minister or serve* – to *do* – in the Church. Religious are called to *be*.

Religious draw their identity, in fact, their very existence from the Church which:

- Accepts and approves the Order's founder and the way of life he/she began.
- Receives the vows of Religious in God's name.
- Shares her God-given mission with them.
- Mediates the grace Religious need for their lives of consecration.
- Guides, corrects and encourages Religious in their search for perfection.

18. Government in a Religious Community

Religious communities must have a form of government, approved by the Church, in which authority is held and exercised in Christ's name by their religious superiors.

The Holy Father is the highest superior of every religious community.

Authority in Religious Life is described by the Church not as *privilege* or *prestige*, but as *service*, and the legislation of every Order must contain clear prescriptions about how far authority extends and how it is to be exercised for the good of all the members.

Without authority, the Religious Vow of Obedience, which involves finding God's Will in the commands of superiors, has no substance or meaning.

The government of a religious community is carried out through:

- The Church-approved legislation of the community.
- The community's General Chapter, which has the power to make and change legislation.
- The elected or appointed superiors of the community.

Relativist Mindset

Many people, in various ways, express their concerns, be it over Mass attendance, behaviour in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord in the tabernacle or other Church issues. Such expressions of concern are sometimes met with silence (for whatever reason) or a dismissive “that’s your opinion, this is mine” or “that was then, this is now” or “what’s true for you is not true for me” type comment which are indicative of a relativist mindset.

A false notion of love, the rejection of authority, and confused, dislocated or even disordered thinking are at the source of contemporary problems.

The Incarnation, the perfect expression of God’s love for man, is one of the central mysteries of the Christian faith. Jesus of Nazareth, true God from eternity and true man from being born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was seen and heard. He desires to be freely believed, loved and understood.

Jesus has either been seen as a threat (Herod) or adored (Magi) since his birth. Since the 18th century, attempts began to separate the ‘historical’ Jesus and his divine authority, from the Christ of ‘faith’.

Although Pope St Pius X refuted ‘modernism’ in 1907 (*Pascendi & Lamentabili*) the attempts never really went away. In 1951, at the end of the encyclical *Sempiternus Rex Christus*, Pope Pius XI denounced the modern “kenotic theory” which supposes that in the Incarnation, the divinity of Christ was somehow lost by its union with human nature. Pray, don’t start to doubt. There is the hiss of a serpent in that innocuous question: “when did Jesus know he was God?” Thus, due to innate human weakness, a crack opened to begin doubting, denying or reinterpreting any or all of the Church’s immutable teachings to cater for contemporary philosophies.

For whatever reason, certain theologians started with a Christology from below: that is from the Christ man perspective. The Good News came from above (where the Creed starts) not from below. In starting from below, we ignore Jesus’ call for the necessity to have correct priorities (Mt 6:33, 7:5, 22:38) and we begin to drift into Arianism and Pelagianism. Liberation theology is the result from not starting ‘from above’.

Should one or more of the aforementioned issues impact the celebration of Holy Mass, then we seek an Easter Sunday without a Good Friday or something worse, community-centred worship rather than God-(through, with and in Christ) centred. The potential risk for unfruitful stewardship is real. Jesus said, “apart from me you can do nothing.”

Relativism denies there is objective truth to be adhered to in moral or ethical issues. They are reduced to the level of subjective personal opinion which can then legitimately vary from person to person or age to age. This defies common sense. May it be the Holy Spirit who guides us and may St Michael guard and protect us.

John M Royal, Bundaberg West, Queensland

Approaching the Mystery

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, 21-11-2012

Mystery...is not irrational, but the overabundance of sense, of meaning, of truth.

If, when looking at the Mystery, one’s reason sees darkness, it is not because there is no light in the mystery, but rather because there is too much of it. Just as when a man turns his eyes to look directly at the sun, he sees only darkness; but who would say that the sun is not bright? On the contrary, it is the source of light.

Faith allows us to look upon the “sun” that is God, because it is a welcoming of his revelation in history and, so to speak, truly receives all the brightness of the mystery of God, recognizing the great miracle: God has approached man and has offered himself to be known by man, deigning to stoop the creaturely limits of his reason. At the same time, God, with his grace, enlightens reason, opens new horizons for it, immeasurable and infinite.

For this reason, faith is a strong incentive to seek always, to never stop and never grow quiet in the inexhaustible discovery of the truth and of reality.

The prejudice of some modern thinkers is false, according to which human reason would be as if blocked by the dogmas of faith. The exact opposite is true, as the great masters of the Catholic tradition have shown. St Augustine, before his conversion, sought the truth restlessly in all the available philosophies, finding them all unsatisfactory. His painstaking rational search was for him a significant pedagogy for the encounter with the Truth of Christ. When he says, “believe, in order to understand, and understand, the better to believe”, it is as if he were recounting his own life experience.

Intellect and faith are not strangers or antagonists before divine Revelation; rather, both are conditions for understanding its meaning, to receive its authentic message, approaching the threshold of the mystery.

Zenit.org 21-11-2012

If a single living cell was found
on a distant planet, scientists
would exclaim that we have
found life elsewhere in the
universe.

So why is a single living cell
found in the womb of a pregnant
woman, not considered life?

The Endowment for Human Development, ehd.org

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–8.30pm Heyfield 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord'te	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
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
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 – 12pm 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

*"If you believe what you like in the gospels,
and reject what you don't like,
it is not the gospel you believe,
but yourself."*

Saint Augustine

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- Contact ITD if you would like to be added to the monthly mailing list (email or hard copy).
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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.

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For those who are on Facebook, find ITD at www.facebook.com/stoneswillshout or search for "Into the Deep" or "stoneswillshout" and you'll find us. Stay connected by liking the page and sharing and commenting on posts. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Ed.