

# *Into the Deep*

Issue 154

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2015

## ITD Turns 13

This month marks the 13<sup>th</sup> birthday of Into the Deep!

Thank you so much to all those who have supported ITD and kept it going over the years, whether with donations, letters to the editor, prayers or encouragement. It is heartening to still be receiving letters and emails thanking ITD for still being in print, and sharing what it means to you to be part of the ITD family.

Orthodox Catholics are often isolated or shunned by their local parishes, and it's difficult for many people to maintain their faith, hope and charity in the face of increasingly hostile resistance from fellow Catholics. ITD offers a refuge for these people, where you can be among like-minded Catholics, faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Please make an effort to share ITD with those around you who may also appreciate being part of a larger Catholic family.

- Ed.

## The Most Precious Inheritance

*Pope Francis to the elderly, 29-09-2014*

Old age is, in a particular way, a time of grace in which the Lord renews his call to us. He calls us to keep and transmit the faith; He calls us to pray, especially to intercede; He calls us to be close to those in need ... The elderly, grandparents have the capacity to understand the most difficult situations – a great capacity! And when they pray for these situations, their prayer is strong; it is powerful!

To grandparents, who have received the blessing to see the children of their children, a great task has been entrusted: to transmit the experience of life, the history of a family, of a community, of a people; to share with simplicity wisdom and the faith itself – the most precious inheritance! Blessed are those families that have grandparents who are close! The grandfather is a father twice and the grandmother is a mother twice.

*Zenit.org 29-09-2014*

## Thank You Gifts!

ITD is funded purely by the generous donations of readers. All donations go only to the printing and postage costs. There is no subscription fee, but many readers take the opportunity to send an annual donation in our birthday month. See page 12 for details of how to send donations.

This year there will be a FREE GIFT for the first 20 people who send a donation in October. I have purchased (personally, not with ITD money) 20 twine rosaries, made by Fr Ken Clark of the Gippsland Ordinariate parish, which I will send to the first 20 readers who make a donation. Fr Ken makes them himself and sells them to raise funds for the Ordinariate.

The rosaries come in a range of colours, so if you have a favourite colour, let me know and I'll see if I have one to suit. Some have a metal crucifix and some have a twine cross, so you can also let me know which of these you prefer and I'll try to accommodate preferences.

Anne Lastman, author and founder of Victims of Abortion, has donated a copy of her latest book, "Hidden Pain: An Insight into Child Sexual Abuse". Mention her book when you send your donation, and at the end of the month I will randomly select one to receive the book as a special gift.

Those who receive the rosaries and the book will be mentioned in the next issue of ITD, unless otherwise requested.

- Ed.

## Mary's Memories

*Rosarium Virginis Mariae, n.11*

Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: "She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart". The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the "rosary" which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life.

**All issues of *Into the Deep* are at [www.stoneswillshout.com/wp](http://www.stoneswillshout.com/wp)**

## A Wake-Up Call

This year, as you know, is the Year of Consecrated Life. Due to the enthusiastic response at the Brisbane and Sydney APREL conferences this year, the Conventual Sisters of St Dominic, along with interested laity and other religious, have organised a one-day conference in Melbourne on 17 October.

What are the APREL Conferences?

The Association for the Promotion of Religious Life (APREL) was formed in 1983 to renew and reform religious life in Australia. The Conferences are to educate youth, priests, laity, etc. about Religious Life and related topics. It is NOT a vocations discernment or vocations event!

The world and the Church need, Pope Francis has said, a huge wake-up call. Religious men and women are supposed to be that dynamic force in the world. Why? How? What happened and what we all can do now, are questions every Catholic should be asking.

**Find the answers at the Melbourne APREL Conference:**

**When?** Saturday 17 October, 10am – 4pm

**Where?** St Patrick's school hall, Mentone, Victoria

**Cost?** Free! Lunch provided.

**Come and learn essential truths about Faith, Family and the hidden Force of the Church – and how you can make a difference too!**

Australia needs a great wake up call – and we need to be educated in order to understand how this can be done best.

Young parents, grandparents, teachers, youth co-ordinators, priests and Catholics who care about the life of the Church will appreciate this Conference. There is much happening for youth and young adults – and not enough for the other adults in the Church, so please spread the word about the conference and invite others to come too.

Thank you for your help in fulfilling the Holy Father's call! Visit [www.aprel-australia.blogspot.com.au](http://www.aprel-australia.blogspot.com.au) for more information.

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

## Age-Old Tradition

*Rosarium Virginis Mariae, n.41*

*The family that prays together stays together.* The Holy Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together. Individual family members, in turning their eyes towards Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.

## Bottom of the Heap

Some citizens have expressed the view that Australia should not accept only Christian refugees even though the latter have been the most persecuted group in the Middle East years before Islamic State emerged.

Julie Bishop hit the nail on the head when she said, "I think that Christian minorities are being persecuted in Syria, and even if the conflict were over they would still be persecuted."

Keep in mind, though, that the persecution of Christians is not an exclusively Middle Eastern phenomenon: they were, and continue to be, targeted by Muslim mobs, Muslim individuals and Muslim terrorists in Arab, African and Asian nations. Even our nearest northern neighbour Indonesia has, over the years, been the scene of vicious persecutions of its Christian minority.

Fair-minded people hope Australia won't follow the surely perverse example of America which has placed persecuted Christian refugees "at the bottom of the heap" to be granted asylum, while Muslims have received preferential treatment: since January 2015, the US has granted asylum to approximately six Muslims for every Christian it has taken in.

*Henk Verhoeven, Beacon Hill, New South Wales*

## Vocation to Martyrdom

*Pope Francis, Morning Mass, 07-09-2015*

Perhaps more than in the early days, [Christians] are persecuted, killed, driven out, despoiled, only because they are Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters, there is no Christianity without persecution. Remember the last of the Beatitudes: when they bring you into the synagogues, and persecute you, revile you; this is the fate of a Christian.

Today too, this happens before the whole world, with the complicit silence of many powerful leaders who could stop it. We are facing this Christian fate: go on the same path of Jesus. ...

May the Lord, today, make us feel within the Body of the Church, the love for our martyrs and also our vocation to martyrdom.

We do not know what will happen here, we do not know. Only may the Lord give us the grace, should this persecution happen here one day, of the courage and the witness that all Christian martyrs have shown...

*Zenit.org 07-09-2015*

**“Be humble** and you will never be disturbed.

It is very difficult in practice because we all want to see the result of our work. Leave it to Jesus.”

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta*

# Silent Retreat Day

Following the successful first and second retreat/quiet days in July and August, the Ordinariate Parish of the Most Holy Family invites you to participate in the last one:

## Deepening Prayer: Seeking God's Presence

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

Held at St Brigid's Catholic Church, Cowwarr

**Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>**: 9.30am-4pm

Contemplatio

The day includes 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 two days (there are hand-outs from the talks).

*Fr Ken Clark OLSC, Maffra, Victoria*

# Strength to Bear Witness

*Pope Francis, Angelus address, 06-10-2013*

...As St Paul says to Timothy: "Do not be ashamed to bear witness to our Lord, nor to me, in prison for him; but with the power of God, suffer with me for the Gospel" (2Tim1:8).

But this is meant for everyone: each one of us, in his everyday life, can bear witness to Christ, with the power of God, the power of faith, the small faith that we have, which, nevertheless, is strong! With this strength bear witness to Jesus Christ, be Christians with your life, with your witness!

And where do we get this strength from? We get it from God in prayer. Prayer is the breath of faith: in a relationship of trust, in a relationship of love, dialogue cannot be lacking, and prayer is a dialogue of the soul with God.

***October is also the month of the Rosary, and on this first Sunday it is a tradition to recite the Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii, the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary.*** Let us join spiritually in this act of confidence in our Mother, and we receive from her hands the beads of the Rosary: the Rosary is a school of prayer; the Rosary is a school of faith!

*Zenit.org 06-10-2013*

**Note:** The Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii, (written by Blessed Bartolo Longo, is available on the ITD website – [stoneswillshout.com/wp](http://stoneswillshout.com/wp). It obtains a partial indulgence if recited, with fervour and in the state of grace, at noon on the first Sunday of October (also the 8<sup>th</sup> of May).

# Man and Woman

*Pope Francis, General Audience, 15-04-2015*

We begin with a brief comment on the first account of Creation in the Book of Genesis. Here we read that God, after having created the universe and all living beings, created his masterpiece, namely, the human being, which he made in his own image: "in the image of God He created them; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27).

As we all know, sexual difference is present in so many forms of life, in the long scale of the living. However, only in man and in woman does it bear in itself the image and likeness of God: the biblical text repeats it a good three times in two verses (26-27): Man and woman are image and likeness of God!

This tells us that not only man in himself is the image of God, not only woman in herself is the image of God, but also man and woman, as a couple, are the image of God. The difference between man and woman is not for opposition, or for subordination, but for communion and creation, always in the image and likeness of God. ...

Modern and contemporary culture has opened new areas, new freedoms and new depths for the enrichment of the understanding of this difference.

However, it has also introduced many doubts and much skepticism. For instance, I wonder, for example, if the so-called *gender theory* is not also an expression of a frustration and of a resignation, which aims to cancel the sexual difference because it no longer knows how to address it.

Yes, we risk taking a step backward. The removal of the difference, in fact, is the problem, not the solution.

To resolve their problems of relation, man and woman must instead talk more to one another, listen more to one another, know one another more, love one another more. They must relate to one another with respect and cooperate with friendship.

With these human bases, sustained by the grace of God, it is possible to plan the matrimonial and family union for the whole of life. The matrimonial and family bond is something serious, and it is for everyone, not only for believers. ...

God has entrusted the earth to the alliance of man and of woman: its failure makes the world arid of affections and darkens the sky of hope.

...The earth is filled with harmony and trust when the alliance between man and woman is lived well.

And if man and woman seek it together between themselves and with God, without a doubt they will find it.

Jesus encourages us explicitly to give witness to this beauty, which is the image of God.

*Zenit.org 15-04-2015*

## Discern What is Real

*Pope Francis to youth, Cuba, 21-09-2015*

... When I look at all of you, the first thing that comes into my mind and heart, too, is the word 'hope'. I cannot imagine a young person who is listless, without dreams or ideals, without a longing for something greater.

...hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our concrete circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfilment, a desire to achieve great things, things which fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love.

But it also involves taking risks. It means being ready not to be seduced by what is fleeting, by false promises of happiness, by immediate and selfish pleasures, by a life of mediocrity and self-centredness, which only fills the heart with sadness and bitterness.

No, hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and can open us up to grand ideals which make life more beautiful and worthwhile.

I would ask each one of you: What is it that shapes your life? What lies deep in your heart? Where do your hopes and aspirations lie? Are you ready to put yourself on the line for the sake of something even greater? ...

This path of life is lit up by a higher hope: the hope born of our faith in Christ. ... Not only does He encourage us, He also accompanies us; He is at our side and He extends a friendly hand to us. The Son of God, He wanted to become someone like us, to accompany us on our way. Faith in His presence, in His friendship and love, lights up all our hopes and dreams. With Him at our side, we learn to discern what is real, to encounter and serve others, and to walk the path of solidarity.

*Vatican Information Service 21-09-2015*

## The Last Sinner

I'm interested to see if anyone has noticed that not many seem to go to confession anymore?

I go to my local church (St Mary's Bairnsdale) for confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary and stations of the cross, as well as for private prayer before work, and the other day I was talking to an old man after rosary about confession, to which we had both been. He said that Father once told him the confessional is the loneliest place in the church, there are never very many penitents. I've noticed that to be so each time. There are two confessionals there, and one is used as a store room!

However, most people go to communion.

Of course, I don't wish to judge the state of anyone else's soul, as that is not my business, but God's. Surely though, they can't ALL be in a state of grace, and I the only mortal sinner in town?

What is the go with confession these days? Do people not believe in sin, or think it doesn't apply to them? Why don't the priests preach on it anymore? They only mention the nebulous "sinners" and neglect to tell people what IS sinful. You don't hear anything about sex before marriage, living together, contraception, etc, and certainly not the Last Things ... death, Heaven or Hell!

At the church I go for Mass, which is traditional, not Novus Ordo, the confessionals are always in use, it's hard to get in! There are well over 400 people at Mass, mostly young families like mine, which is in stark contrast to the typical Novus Ordo parish.

Is it a matter of people not being catechised to know what sin is, and that you have to be free of mortal sin to have communion? I feel sorry for poor Father, with no penitents coming to receive the joy of absolution!

*Janine Rout, Bruthen, Victoria*

## The Church is Holy

*Pope Francis, General Audience, 02-10-2013*

In what sense is the Church Holy if we see that the historical Church, in her long journey through the centuries, has had so many difficulties, problems, dark moments? How can a Church be Holy which is made up of human beings, of sinners? Sinful men, sinful women, sinful priests, sinful Sisters, sinful Bishops, sinful Cardinals, sinful Pope – all are so. How can such a Church be Holy?

To answer the question I would like to be guided by a passage of the Letter of Saint Paul to the Christians of Ephesus. Taking as examples family relations, the Apostle states that "Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her." (5:25-26)

Christ loved the Church giving himself wholly on the cross. And this means that the Church is Holy because she comes from God who is Holy, who is faithful to her and does not abandon her to the power of death and evil. She is Holy because Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God, is indissolubly united to her; she is Holy because she is guided by the Holy Spirit who purifies, transforms and renews her.

She is not Holy because of our merits, but because God renders her Holy, the fruit of the Holy Spirit and of his gifts. It is not we who make her holy. It is God in His love that makes her Holy.

*Zenit.org 02-10-2013*

## How To Get Rid of Bats

A humorous reflection on the state of the Church today:

There was a group of local parish priests who went fishing every Monday and they talked about many things including the problems they face. One parish priest said that he is experiencing much difficulty getting the flying foxes out of his belfry. The other priests offer a number of solutions but he says that he has tried them all.

Then the next Monday they are back together again and the other priests enquire of him as to the progress on ridding the flying foxes from the church. He replied that the problem had been resolved. They asked "How?"

He replied that one night he went up the belfry and found hundreds of flying foxes. So he baptised them and then confirmed them and the flying foxes then... left the church!

*John McMahon, Kolonga, Queensland*

## Angels

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

**328** The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition.

Who are they?

**329** St. Augustine says: "'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel.'" With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God.

**336** From infancy to death human life is surrounded by their [angels'] watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." [St Basil] Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

## Marlo Retreats

The next retreats at The Ark in Marlo will be:

- Fr Emmanuel Adami: Thursday p.m. 5<sup>th</sup> November to Monday a.m. 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- Fr Ken Clark (Ordinate): Wednesday p.m. 20<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday a.m. 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

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*

## A Grasp on Theology

Once upon a time the English bishops collapsed before Henry VIII like a house of cards. The single exception was imprisoned, tortured and executed. Hence St John Fisher.

Now the majority of Australian bishops have caved in to social pressure on 'global warming'. Contrary to their statement, sea levels are not rising, nor is the rest of the data confirmed.

One would hope that the rest of these reverend gentlemen have a better grasp of theology than they do of science.

*Don Gaffney, Moorooka, Queensland*

## To Whom Shall We Go?

*Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 23-08-2015*

From that time, the Gospel says, "many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him." Faced with these defections, Jesus does not take back or soften His words, in fact, He forces us to make a clear choice: either to be with Him or separated from Him – and He says to the Twelve: "Do you also want to leave?"

At this point, Peter makes his confession of faith in the name of the other Apostles: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

He does not say, "Where shall we go?" but, "To whom shall we go?" The real problem here is not in going and abandoning the work that has been undertaken, but rather 'to whom' to go.

From that question of Peter, we understand that loyalty to God is a matter of loyalty to a person with whom they are bound to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus.

All that we have in the world does not satisfy our hunger for the infinite. We need Jesus: to be with Him, to nourish ourselves at His table, His words of eternal life! Believing in Jesus means to make Him the centre, the meaning of our life. Christ is not an accessory element: He is the "living bread", the indispensable nourishment. Attaching ourselves to Him, in a real relationship of faith and love, does not mean being chained, but being profoundly free, always on a journey, open to the challenges of our time.

Each of us can ask ourselves now: "Who is Jesus for me?" A name? An idea? Only some historic person, or someone who loves me, who gave His life for me, and walks with me? Who is Jesus for you? Do you try to get to know Him? Do you remain with his word? ... Do you bring your pocket-Gospel with you to read it in whatever place you are in? Because the more we are with Him, the more our desire to be with Him grows.

*Zenit.org 23-08-2015*

## New Words

Are we praying the Rosary correctly?

In the first part of the Hail Mary, many people say "...and blessed is the fruit of thy wombjesus."

What is a wombjesus? The correct way here is "...fruit of thy womb, Jesus." There must be a pause between the words womb and Jesus for this prayer to make sense.

This is the correct translation of the prayer that the Blessed Virgin Mary taught the children at Fatima to pray: "O my Jesus, pardon us, and save us from the fire of hell; draw all souls to heaven, especially those most in need."

According to the book *Our Lady of Fatima* by William Thomas Walsh (Macmillan, 1947), in an interview with the author Sr Lucia states that, "The correct form is the one I have written in my account of the apparition of July 13: 'O my Jesus, pardon us, and save us from the fire of hell; draw all souls to heaven, especially those most in need.'"

*Mike Lovett, Endeavour Hills, Victoria*

## Gratitude and Hard Work

*Pope Francis, to clergy and religious in New York, 25-09-2015*

In the hope of helping you to persevere on the path of fidelity to Jesus Christ, I would like to offer two brief reflections.

The first concerns *the spirit of gratitude*. The joy of men and women who love God attracts others to him; priests and religious are called to find and radiate lasting satisfaction in their vocation. Joy springs from a grateful heart. Truly, we have received much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this. It will do us good to think back on our lives with the grace of remembrance. Remembrance of when we were first called, remembrance of the road travelled, remembrance of graces received... and, above all, remembrance of our encounter with Jesus Christ so often along the way. Remembrance of the amazement which our encounter with Jesus Christ awakens in our hearts. ... Perhaps we need to ask ourselves: are we good at counting our blessings?

A second area is *the spirit of hard work*. A grateful heart is spontaneously impelled to serve the Lord and to find expression in a life of commitment to our work. Once we come to realize how much God has given us, a life of self-sacrifice, of working for him and for others, becomes a privileged way of responding to his great love.

*Zenit.org 25-09-2015*

*"Invoke your Guardian Angel, who will enlighten you and guide you. God has given him to you for your protection, therefore, you should use him accordingly."*

*St Pio of Pietrelcina*

## A Tribal Response

There are many closet readers of *Into the Deep* in the diocese of Sale and beyond. For many of these self-described progressive, left-leaning Catholics it's not the facts, principles and truth that matters but the side, the tribe, you support and belong to.

At the time of Fr Speekman's removal case many blindly and ignorantly pledged their loyalty to the late Bishop Coffey, and discredited ITD as a scurrilous rag. This very much became the trend among the hierarchy, religious and disaffected lay Catholics employed by the Church in the diocese of Sale.

Incredibly, many of these Catholics did not deem it important to establish the truth for themselves. And neither did they consider it necessary to stand up and defend it. Their loyalty was not to the principle or the truth in question but to the tribe and its chiefs. They rallied behind, and stubbornly supported their own, regardless of the facts.

Of course for ITD, reporting the truth and standing up for the principle has been paramount as an orthodox Catholic publication.

At the time and since Fr Speekman's removal, the diocese of Sale has been a place of controversy, disgrace, shame and scandal. Historically, ITD has been the only publication that has methodically chronicled the diabolical actions, abuses, failures, misdeeds and neglect of two bishops and their priests towards an honest, orthodox priest who took the Church's office of parish priest seriously. It is a carefully recorded history of how bishops and priests who have publicly pledged themselves to Christ, his Bride, have so completely lost their identity and origins, and in effect soiled and disfigured the face of the Church in Gippsland. ITD has been a constant irritant under the skin of liberal Catholics – and for that I am grateful!

*Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria*

## Adore Him

*Pope Francis to priests and religious, 11-09-2015*

Make an effort to grow in this way of prayer: adoration. Adore, adore God. There is a lack [of adoration] in the Church at this moment, due to the lack of education. That sense of adoration that we see in the first commandment of the Bible, to adore the only God. "Remember Israel: you have no other gods besides the One." To adore: You shall adore only Him.

*Zenit.org 11-09-2015*

## Make a Difference

To all our friends in the pro-life movements, I would like to relate a story which many of you know already.

A little boy (prayer warrior) was walking on the beach one day and he noticed literally millions of little fish (unborn babies) somehow stranded, gasping for air and nobody seemed to care.

He felt very sorry for them and picked one up, threw it back into the ocean and was delighted to see it swim away to sea.

Of course, a busybody (anti-lifer) had to come along and seeing what the boy was doing said, "Little boy why are you doing this? There are far too many little fish and you can't save them all! It makes no difference!"

The little boy smiled, picked up a little fish and while throwing it back he said, "It makes a difference to this one".

Dear friends, you can be part of a worldwide organisation of volunteers called 40 Days for Life. By our peaceful, prayerful witnessing world-wide, more than 10,000 gorgeous unborn babies have been saved.

Therefore, we would like to extend to you and friends and family members a very warm welcome to join us in prayerful witnessing at our next 40 Days for Life campaign:

**23 September – 1 November, 7am – 7pm**

**Fertility Control Clinic, 116-118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne**

Don't be put off by the blatant lies of the media and pro-choice politics. They have an anti-life, anti-family and anti-traditional marriage agenda and we represent their conscience. They only have lies to defend their actions; we have the TRUTH!

You can put your individual/group name on our website in the time-slots you have chosen. The Helpers of God's Precious children are there every morning from 7-10am. We would gratefully appreciate the hours after that to be filled so that women leaving the clinic and women going in to make an appointment can be supported in prayer.

*Fons Janssen, Co-ordinator, 40 Days For Life campaign  
Melbourne, [www.40daysforlife/melbourne](http://www.40daysforlife/melbourne), Ph 0429 181 897*

## Prayer for the Conversion of Planned Parenthood

*By Fr Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

Lord, for whom all things are possible,  
We are confronted once again today  
With the evil of the abortion industry  
And the corruption found  
In the world's largest abortion business, Planned  
Parenthood.

Lord, we pray for all who plan to be parents,  
And we ask your mercy on those  
Who teach others to reject parenthood.

In the light of your Word, Lord,  
We affirm today that children are a blessing from you,  
And that the origin of all parenthood  
Is likewise in You, the God of life and love.

Therefore, Oh God,  
We stand against the evil that has been exposed  
In Planned Parenthood  
And in the entire abortion industry.

We stand today for the triumph  
Of truth over falsehood,  
Of light over darkness,  
And of life over death.

Bring an end to the killing of children in the womb,  
And bring an end to the sale of their body parts.

Bring conversion to all who do this,  
And enlightenment to all who advocate it.

Close the doors of the death camps in our midst,  
And open the doors of your mercy and healing!

Close the grisly trade in baby body parts,  
And open the abundant gifts of your salvation and life!

Hasten the day when our land  
Will no longer be stained with innocent blood,  
And when the bodies of all your children  
Will be raised from the dead  
And set free forever.

We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen!

*[www.PrayerCampaign.org](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org)*

## A House Divided

*Monsignor Harry Entwistle, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross*

Those who favour changes in the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act chant the mantra that 'Change is inevitable' until more and more people accept that it is. It is said that more and more American Catholics are becoming more American than Catholic and I would say that throughout the Western world, Catholics are behaving more like Anglicans than Catholics. What they don't realise is that it is the gay issue that has caused the cancellation of the next Anglican Lambeth Conference which is an admission that the Anglican Communion is so seriously divided that the members will not meet together. As Jesus pointed out, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

*Australia Wide, June 2015, p.3*

# The Best Therapy

*From a radio broadcast by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 11-02-1951*

May I briefly single out how [the rosary] can help the worried, the sick and the world?

The Worried. Worry is a want of harmony between the mind and the body. Worried people invariably keep their minds too busy and their hands too idle. But in mental distress, the thousand and one thoughts find no order within and no escape without. Concentration is impossible when the mind is troubled; thoughts run helter-skelter; a thousand and one images flood across the mind; distracted and wayward, the spiritual seems a long way off.

The Rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful and frustrated souls precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers; the physical, the vocal and the spiritual – in that order. The fingers touching the beads are reminded that these little counters are to be used for prayer. This is the physical suggestion of prayer. The lips moving in unison with the fingers is the vocal suggestion of prayer. The Church is a wise psychologist, insisting that the lips move while saying the Rosary, because She knows that the external rhythm of the body can create a rhythm of the soul. If the fingers and lips keep at it, the spiritual will soon follow and the prayer will eventually end in the heart.

The beads help the mind to concentrate. They are almost like the self-starter of a motor; after a few spurts, the soul soon gets going. The very rhythm and sweet monotony induce a physical peace and quiet and creates affective fixation on God. The physical and the mental work together if we give them a chance. Stronger minds can work from the mind outwards, but worried minds have to work from the outside inwards. With the spiritually trained, the soul leads the body; with most people, the body has to lead the soul. Little by little, the worried, as they say the Rosary, see that all their worries stemmed from their egotism. No normal mind yet has ever been overcome by worries or fears who was faithful to the Rosary. You will be surprised how you can climb out of your worries, bead by bead, up to the very throne of the Heart of Love Itself.

The Rosary is also a particularly good prayer for the sick. When fever mounts and the body aches, the mind cannot read; it hardly wants to be spoken to, but there is so much in its heart it yearns to tell. When a person is healthy, his eyes for the most part are looking to the earth; when he is flat on his back, his eyes look up to heaven. Perhaps it is truer to say that heaven looks down. In such moments when fever, agony and pain make it hard to pray, the suggestion of prayer that comes from holding the rosary is tremendous, or better still, caressing the Crucifix at the end of it. Because prayers are known by heart, the heart can now pour them out; the words becoming a focus or spearhead of a meditation, thus fulfilling the Scriptural injunction to “pray always.” The favourite mysteries then are generally the sorrowful ones, for by meditating on the suffering of Our Lord on the Cross, the sick are inspired to unite their pains with Him, that sharing in His Cross they might also share in His Resurrection.

The world is in universal distress. First, men have failed – never were there so many little men in high places; secondly, political institutions have collapsed – for none of them recognize a source of law outside themselves. But there is still God. Peace will come, only when the hearts of the world have changed. To do this we must pray and not for ourselves, but for the world. The world means everyone: Russians, our enemies and our next-door neighbours.

It all comes down to this: the world will change when we change. But we cannot change without prayer, and the power of the Rosary as a prayer is beyond description. Here I am reciting concrete instances of its spiritual effects which I know. Young people in danger of death through accident had miraculous recoveries; a mother, despaired of in childbirth was saved with her child; alcoholics became temperate; dissolute lives became spiritualized; fallen-aways returned to the faith; the childless were blessed with a family; soldiers preserved during battle; mental anxieties overcome and pagans converted. I know of a Jew who in the First World War was in a shell hole on the Western Front with four Austrian soldiers. Shells had been bursting on all sides. Suddenly, one bomb killed his four companions. He took a Rosary from the hands of one of them and began saying it. He knew it by heart for he had heard them say it so often. At the end of the first decade, he felt an inner warning to leave that shell hole. He crawled through mud and muck and threw himself into another hole. At that moment a shell hit the first hole where he had been hiding. At the end of each of the other four decades, four more warnings, four times he changed his shell hole, four more explosions in the shell hole he left, and his life was saved. He promised to give his life to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. After the war more sufferings; his family was burned by Hitler, but his promise lingered. Last year I baptized him and he is now preparing to study for the priesthood.

Learn to sanctify all the idle moments of life. It can be done thanks to the Rosary. As you walk the streets, pray with the Rosary hidden in your hand or your pocket... While waiting to be served at a lunch room, or waiting for a train, or in a store; or while playing dummy at bridge; or when conversation or a lecture lags – or even a broadcast. All these moments can be sanctified and made to serve your inner peace.

***If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of the knowledge of Our Lord and His Mystical Body, teach him the Rosary. One of two things will happen. Either he will stop saying the Rosary, or he will get the gift of faith.***



## Weapon of Choice

Make no mistake, the Catholic Church is in schism. The proof is in the discussions of the 2014 Synod of Bishops on the family. According to the material released after the Synod, we learn that the majority of the cardinals and bishops present voted in favour of changing divine truth on the issue of admitting to Holy Communion those divorced and remarried Catholics.

These episcopal clerics could be described as the new Pharisees. Can anyone tell me how you can put to a vote the legitimacy of divine truth and the divine words of Christ? The family is under attack, not only from those outside the Church but now from inside the Church. The smoke of Satan has entered the Holy Temple of God.

Thank God there are cardinals and bishops who have strongly defended the divine teachings of Christ and His Church. Among them are Bishop Schneider of Kazakhstan, Archbishop Gadecki of Poland, Cardinal George Pell and Cardinal Raymond Burke, the latter two being reported as holding the line against the dissidents.

All of this raises an interesting question. How many of our Australian bishops sided with the modern-day Pharisees? I have not seen or heard of any bishop attacking those dissidents at the Synod. If anyone can enlighten me I will stand corrected. Looking at their track record I will not be hanging by the thumbs waiting. As Mother Angelica would say, they have not received the 8<sup>th</sup> gift of the Holy Spirit – guts and determination. Too many of our priests and bishops want to be popular and in the process dilute the truth.

How many of our priests would agree with the majority vote of the Synod? No synod, no cardinal, no bishop, not even the pope, can change Divine Truth, dogma, or doctrine. We have Christ's word, "the gates of Hell will not prevail".

Me, I am a nobody, I am a sinful man. But I do know that when you mess with divine truth you are in big trouble. You are travelling the path to perdition whose final destination is Hell.

What can we do? Pray increasingly for those attending the forthcoming Synod beginning 4<sup>th</sup> October. Pray our Blessed Mother's prayer, the rosary – that is the weapon. Pray to our Blessed Mother that she will obtain the grace for these dissidents that they will turn back and follow Christ. Pray for all those bishops, priests and religious who are loyal to Christ and His Church that they will receive the grace, strength and courage to defend the faith even to death. Pray for us all that we will receive that same grace to die if necessary for Christ.

What sorrow must our Blessed Mother be feeling when she sees some of her spiritual sons acting in this way. Another sword has pierced her Immaculate Heart. Pray, pray the rosary of our Blessed Lady.

*John Henderson, Morwell, Victoria*

## Solution to Self-Centredness

*Pope Francis, to Consecrated Young People, 17-09-2015*

...I don't know if it is the worst but it is one of the worst attitudes of a Religious – to reflect himself, narcissism. Beware of this. And we live in a narcissist culture, and we always have this tendency to mirror ourselves. Say no to narcissism, to looking at oneself. And yes to the contrary, to what strips all narcissism, yes to Adoration. And I think that this is one of the points on which we must go forward. We all pray, we give thanks to the Lord, we ask for favours, we praise the Lord ...But I ask the question: Do we adore the Lord? Do you, men and women Religious, have the capacity to adore the Lord? The prayer of silent adoration: "You are the Lord," is the contrary of that self-reflection of narcissism. Adoration. I want to finish with this word: be women and men of adoration.

*Zenit.org 17-09-2015*

## Our Mission

*From the message of Pope Francis for the 89<sup>th</sup> World Mission Sunday, 18-10-2015*

Dear brothers and sisters, a true missionary is passionate for the Gospel. Saint Paul said: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" The Gospel is the source of joy, liberation and salvation for all men and women. The Church is aware of this gift, and therefore she ceaselessly proclaims to everyone "what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes."

The mission of the servants of the Word – bishops, priests, religious and laity – is to allow everyone, without exception, to enter into a personal relationship with Christ. In the full range of the Church's missionary activity, all the faithful are called to live their baptismal commitment to the fullest, in accordance with the personal situation of each.

## ***"O Blessed Rosary of Mary,***

sweet chain which unites us to God, bond of love which unites us to the angels, tower of salvation against the assaults of Hell, safe port in our universal shipwreck, we will never abandon you. You will be our comfort in the hour of death: yours our final kiss as life ebbs away. And the last word from our lips will be your sweet name, O Queen of the Rosary of Pompei, O dearest Mother, O Refuge of Sinners, O Sovereign Consoler of the Afflicted. May you be everywhere blessed, today and always, on earth and in heaven."

*Blessed Bartolo Longo*

# 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. The beginning of this series started in ITD in the January/February issue.*

## 22. Religious Life v. Other Forms of Consecrated Life

The Church approves and promotes various forms of Consecrated life, which should not be confused with one another.

They are:

- **Religious Life:**

A life of total consecration to God through the making of life-long public vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

- **Secular Institutes:**

Members of secular institutes undertake to live the evangelical counsels, living and working within the world for its sanctification and redemption. They usually live alone, but some may live in groups.

- **Consecrated Virgins:**

The Church has revived the Order of Virgins which existed in the early Church. A member of this Order vows celibacy and promises obedience to the Bishop who consecrates her for spiritual service to the Church.

- **Societies of Apostolic Life:**

These are not, strictly speaking, institutes of consecrated life, but are groupings of laity or priests who have come together to carry out an apostolate in the name of the Church. They do not take vows, but may make promises. Members of priestly societies, however, do take a vow of celibacy.

## 23. Single Life – A Vocation?

Is it or isn't it? We have been hearing for years – and it is still there on vocation brochures, in vocation homilies and talks – that the “single life” is a vocation along with the Priesthood, Marriage and the Religious Life.

Some essential and relevant facts about the Church's concept of “vocation” are these:

**A vocation is, by definition, permanent and full-time:** Priesthood, Marriage, Religious Life are all permanent and full time commitments. There are no holidays or breaks from these vocations.

Single life is somewhat open-ended. It involves no formal commitment. It could last until the person meets someone they want to marry.

**A vocation is essentially a matter of total self-gift:**

Priesthood is self-gift to the Church. Marriage is self-gift to the spouse. Religious consecration is self-gift to God.

A single person may be very altruistic and selfless in his or her service to others, but there is no total, life-long commitment and self-gift to these others; no undertaking of service until death.

The only “single life” which could be considered and truly called a vocation, is the single life consecrated to God by some *private* act of consecration which includes a commitment to live in celibacy. Under these conditions, a person could be said to have a vocation to “single life in the world”.

## The Religious Habit

Many people have the idea that the formal dress of religious – the habit, as it is traditionally called – is out of date and no longer necessary. They are seriously misinformed.

**The Church's Canon Law (No. 669) says simply:**

**“As a sign of their consecration and as a witness to poverty, Religious are to wear the habit of their institute...”**

- The teaching of Vatican Council II, as well as all the Popes of modern times, has emphasised the powerful symbolic importance of the habit.
- If the consecration of religious and their vow of Poverty are still necessary to their vocation, then the sign of these – habit – can't possibly be outdated or irrelevant.
- The religious is fundamentally a *witness* – to God's supremacy, to His goodness and love, to the values of His Kingdom. And of course, a witness must be *seen*.
- Religious don't just wear the habit as a sign to others. It is a reminder to the religious themselves of their consecration to God and of the way of life – simple, poor, chaste and humble – to which they have committed themselves.

# Do You Believe?

*A homily by Father John Speakman for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B*

The crowds had been following Jesus everywhere he went; one could almost say they had been pursuing him. He escaped them three times by boat; but somehow they had been able to guess where he was heading and each time had managed to catch up with him. They were impressed by the signs he worked, by his teaching and miracles, and wanted more and more to be with him.

Jesus did not disappoint them. He had taught them at length (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday) and miraculously fed them by the multiplication of loaves and fishes (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Then he had begun teaching them in the synagogue in Capernaum (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday) and today (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday) he continues that teaching.

But things were now strangely different. The people were puzzled, restless, uncertain. They were *complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'* 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph,' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'

It strikes me as curious that it was his claim to have come down from heaven that unsettled them. Why did they not say, 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I am bread"?'

The mood, I imagine, was probably like that of the Hebrews who travelled with Moses through the desert. They, too, complained against him. 'We have no water, we have no bread, we have no meat.'

In any event, they were complaining about Jesus to one another because now his teaching no longer 'added up'; it no longer squared with their human way of thinking, the thinking of the flesh.

They hadn't noticed that actually he was no longer just teaching them, at least not in the sense of taking them from the known to the unknown; no, Jesus was not explaining a teaching, he was illuminating a mystery. And as we have already discovered, he was not asking them to understand his words but to *believe* them. And isn't this *our* challenge too, as Catholic Christians?

It's a sad spectacle when a Christian tries to reconcile Jesus' words and deeds with human thinking. The miracles are 'clarified' with far-fetched and unlikely explanations that eventually the miracle seems more plausible than the 'clarifications'. Sooner or later we all have to stand before the gospel of Jesus and give an honest answer to the question, 'Do I believe or do I not believe the words of the Master?'

Noticing their dissatisfaction, Jesus replies, 'Stop complaining to each other' and sets aside the doubts created by their human logic by spelling out for them that the path to the life he offers is ultimately walked only by those who open their hearts to God.

*No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day.* In other words, to come to Jesus is to be drawn by the Father – and to be drawn by the Father is always to come to Jesus.

*To hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me.*

Jesus thus claims divine credentials for his words and puts the challenge as simply as he can; the divine life he offers is accessed only through faith: *I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life.*

And so let us open the door of our heart wide, let us allow the Father to draw us, let us set aside our fleshly way of thinking and receive the Lord's words with faith:

*I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,  
for the life of the world.*

And so we join the dots: bread for the stomach; earthly bread ... bread for the soul; bread from heaven ... Jesus is the living bread; he has come down from heaven ... the bread he gives is his flesh; for the life of the world.

Do you believe that?

*homiliesfromaustralia.blogspot.com.au*

## **“Our empty churches are only by-products of our empty confessionals.**

Undoubtedly, the great crisis of our times is the denial of personal sin. Why was it that the prostitute Mary Magdalen was so open to Christ when he came? It was because she truly knew her sin and her need for forgiveness. It all starts with this. Unless we acknowledge our sin we cannot feel sorrow, and unless we feel sorrow we cannot repent, and unless we repent we cannot receive the Holy Spirit.”

*Fr John Speakman, in his homily for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Year B, homiliesfromaustralia.blogspot.com.au*

## Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfld	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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*

“Every Eucharistic celebration is  
stronger than all the evil in the  
universe.”

*Pope John Paul II*

## Contact *Into the Deep*

Blog - [stoneswillshout.com/wp](http://stoneswillshout.com/wp)

Email - [stoneswillshout@bigpond.com](mailto:stoneswillshout@bigpond.com)

Mail - 12 Vincent Road, Morwell, Vic 3840  
Australia

- 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.

 **ind us on**  **acebook**

For those who are on Facebook, find Into the Deep at [www.facebook.com/stoneswillshout](http://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.