

Into the Deep

Issue 187

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

October 2018

ITD Turns 16!

Who would've believed 16 years ago, with our first edition of *Into the Deep* being one double-sided page, that we'd still be going today? Even I didn't anticipate that.

Thank you to all who have supported us through the years, whether by donation or by writing letters or contributing articles, and especially by passing ITD to friends and family, parishioners, neighbours, priests and schools. We can't continue without people reading ITD, writing to ITD, and donating to ITD. And you've kept it up for 16 years so far. Thank you!

Of course, we are always in need of more donations, more letters, and more readers, so please keep up the good work.

Thank you to those who have donated recently. Some have deposited money into the ITD account without noting their names, or their names are not on our mailing list, which means I have not been able to thank them personally. Rest assured every donation is very much appreciated, and all money goes towards printing and mailing costs.

Keep up the prayers that ITD will be able to help strengthen the faith, spread the joy of the Gospel, increase understanding and love of Church teaching, and keep faithful Catholics from feeling isolated from one another. God is good! And our Catholic faith is an extraordinary blessing!

Ed.

Correction

Last month's issue of *Into the Deep* had the incorrect issue number – 185 instead of 186. My apologies. I have corrected the online version.

Ed.

Death Survey

See page 10 & 11 of this issue of ITD for a survey on death. I'm interested in what people believe about death and life after death.

The survey is not just for Catholics, but for anyone and everyone, so I'd appreciate it if you could complete it yourself, and ask others to complete it too – make copies, or go online to complete it, and share it via email and social media.

The survey is entirely anonymous, so you have nothing to lose. It will only take 5 minutes of your time. Thank you!

Ed.

"To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His mother."

Pope St John Paul II

The Rosary For All

Pope Francis, Message to Youth, Sick and Newlyweds at General Audience, 25-10-2017

At the end of the month of October, I want to recommend the prayer of the Holy Rosary:

May this Marian prayer be for you, dear young people, occasion to penetrate more profoundly the mystery of Christ working in your life.

Love the Rosary, dear sick, so that it gives consolation and meaning to your sufferings.

May it become for you, dear newlyweds, a privileged occasion to experience that spiritual intimacy with God that founds a new family.

Zenit.org 25-10-2017

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

Stones Will Shout

From ITD November 2002, p.4

And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

He answered, *"I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."*

Luke 19:35-40

Faith in the Church

Fr John Flader - summary of podcast 17-09-2018

The Church has been under fierce attack in recent months with news of widespread sexual abuse by clergy and cover ups by the hierarchy, leading many people to become discouraged and critical of the Church. In this meditation we look at the situation with eyes of faith, considering how:

- In the history of the Church there have been many crises, some of them much worse than the present one.
- The Church has always been made up of sinners.
- The Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, goes beyond the faithful on earth who make her up at any one time.
- The Church is founded on rock and will last until the end of time.
- The British historian Thomas Macaulay and St Josemaria Escriva examine the history of the Church and see an institution which has predated all other institutions on earth and will outlast them all.
- Pope Francis has called on all the faithful to pray very much and do penance for the Church.

Fatherfladerblog.com

"Dear young people, do not be afraid of Christ and His Church! For there we find the treasure that fills life with joy."

Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Sunday 2018

Into the Deep

From ITD November 2002, p.4

"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish, and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, *"Do not be afraid,* henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, and they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:4-11

"It is necessary that the church go into the deep of the new millennium, beginning with the contemplation of the face of Christ."

John Paul II

IN MEMORIAM

Pray for the soul of Leo Willems, late of Warragul, who died in December 2017. Leo was a staunch supporter of ITD for many years.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

"Worldly people are miserable when they have crosses, and good Christians are miserable when they have none. The Christian lives in the midst of crosses, as the fish lives in the sea."

St John Vianney

Let the Seas Rage

A sermon by St John Chrysostom

The waters have risen and severe storms are upon us, but we do not fear drowning, for we stand firmly upon a rock. Let the sea rage, it cannot break the rock. Let the waves rise, they cannot sink the boat of Jesus. What are we to fear? Death? *Life to me means Christ, and death is gain.* Exile? *The earth and its fullness belong to the Lord.* The confiscation of goods? *We brought nothing into this world, and we shall surely take nothing from it.* I have only contempt for the world's threats, I find its blessings laughable. I have no fear of poverty, no desire for wealth. I am not afraid of death nor do I long to live, except for your good. I concentrate therefore on the present situation, and I urge you, my friends, to have confidence.

Do you not hear the Lord saying: *Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst?* Will he be absent, then, when so many people united in love are gathered together? I have his promise; I am surely not going to rely on my own strength! I have what he has written; that is my staff, my security, my peaceful harbour. Let the world be in upheaval. I hold to his promise and read his message; that is my protecting wall and garrison. What message? *Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!*

If Christ is with me, whom shall I fear? Though the waves and the sea and the anger of princes are roused against me, they are less to me than a spider's web. Indeed, unless you, my brothers, had detained me, I would have left this very day. For I always say "Lord, your will be done"; not what this fellow or that would have me do, but what you want me to do. That is my strong tower, my immovable rock, my staff that never gives way. If God wants something, let it be done! If he wants me to stay here, I am grateful. But wherever he wants me to be, I am no less grateful.

Yet where I am, there you are too, and where you are, I am. For we are a single body, and the body cannot be separated from the head nor the head from the body. Distance separates us, but love unites us, and death itself cannot divide us. For though my body die, my soul will live and be mindful of my people.

You are my fellow citizens, my fathers, my brothers, my sons, my limbs, my body. You are my light, sweeter to me than the visible light. For what can the rays of the sun bestow on me that is comparable to your love? The sun's light is useful in my earthly life, but your love is fashioning a crown for me in the life to come.

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, strength of those who hope in you, by your will Saint John Chrysostom became renowned in the Church for his astounding eloquence and his forbearance in persecution. Grant that we may be enriched by his teaching and encouraged by the example of his unconquerable fortitude. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Office of Readings, Feast of St John Chrysostom, 13-09-2018

A Powerful Promise

Pope Francis, World Meeting of Families, Dublin, 25-08-2018

There is no such thing as a perfect family – without the practice of forgiveness, families can grow sick and gradually collapse. To "forgive" means to "give" something of yourself. Jesus always forgives us. By the power of his forgiveness, we too can forgive others, if we really want to. Isn't that what we pray for when we say the Our Father? Children learn to forgive when they see their parents forgiving one another.

If we understand this, we can appreciate the grandeur of Jesus' teaching about fidelity in marriage. Far from a cold legal obligation, it is above all a powerful promise of God's own fidelity to his word and his unfailing grace. Christ died for us so that we, in turn, might forgive and be reconciled with one another. In this way, as individuals and as families, we can know the truth of Saint Paul's words that, when all else passes away, "love never ends".

Zenit.org 25-08-2018

Sowers of the Rotten Seeds

Instead of a Youth Synod at the Vatican in October, there should really be an extraordinary Synod to address the topic of the bishops themselves. We have to admit that the recent scandals of cover-ups of homosexuality and sexual abuse of children engulfing Holy Mother Church, have all but shot what was left of her credibility when it comes to the topic of youth.

Besides, it is not the youth who have brought about the deep crises currently engulfing the Church. The bishops alone are the ones responsible for the gayification of the Church and the massive scandals which have resulted from it. The youth have been the spiritual victims of fatherless dysfunctional diocesan households for far too long.

Let's face it, why would any child of the Church, who has fallen or walked away, want to return to a dysfunctional diocesan home that more or less resembles one of cohabitation or same-sex marriage, with a constant stream of administrators and managers moving in and out?

Anyone looking at the Church from the outside would swear that spiritually we are being captained by degenerates who honestly, truly, do not care whether diocesan and parish families die or the Church's faith and morals collapses around them, as long as they remain on top of the writhing heap.

No!, if the Church is to avoid becoming a total wreck, then it is absolutely necessary to reaffirm the traditional episcopal life – especially the fatherly spiritual nature of this life and its role in the health and wellbeing of the Church.

For far too long this spiritual fatherhood (which is integral to the hierarchy's identity, functioning and purpose) has been abdicated, distorted and subverted, and has led to all the sorts of spiritual pathologies, chaos and devastation we are currently witnessing in the Church.

Now more than ever there is a frank need to acknowledge, confront and address the myriad of ways that the bishops themselves have been the sowers of the rotten seeds that have subverted, undercut and undermined the Church's paternal and spiritual authority they were consecrated to exercise in God's great family. They are the ones who have enabled the wreckage we've seen in recent decades.

Be assured, we have not arrived at this juncture in history by accident.

There is an intelligent evil being behind all of this chaos and confusion currently in the Church, hell-bent on the destruction of her faith and morals and the destruction of our Lord's Mystical Body.

Now more than ever an extraordinary Synod is needed to vehemently confront the origin of these evils so that our living Head, our Eucharist Lord, can begin to heal the very source of the sickness besetting the Church. This reckoning is long overdue.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

Stability

Code of Canon Law

Can. 522 A pastor must possess stability and therefore is to be appointed for an indefinite period of time.

The diocesan bishop can appoint him only for a specific period if the conference of bishops has permitted this by a decree.

Unique and Irreplaceable

"Efforts must be made to restore socially the conviction that the place and task of the father in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable importance."

Pope St John Paul II

"To pray is the first missionary work of every Christian.
It is also the most effective."

Pope Francis, Tweet, 29-08-2018

Declaration of War

Countries around the world are joining to hold Rosary Rallies across the world on 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The formation of the New Holy League of Nations declares a united front in worldwide spiritual battle, defending the Dignity of the Human person – Life, Marriage, Family, as well as Religious Liberty. This “declaration of war” is “not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and power, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places.” (Eph 6:12). Together we are calling upon God, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, to heal our countries and return them to Holiness.

Countries involved so far are USA, Poland, UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Lebanon, India, Mexico, Panama, Nigeria, France, Italy, Denmark, Zimbabwe.

Our intentions for the world rosary will be family, rekindling of faith and continued Godly protection. We are hoping that bishops from each diocese might be involved. The website to register your involvement for the world rosary is holyleagueofnations.com.

Jane Chifley, OzRosary, 0476 535 595

Favourite Prayer

Pope St John Paul II, Angelus Address 29-10-1978

The Rosary is my favourite prayer. A marvellous prayer! Marvellous in its simplicity and its depth. In the prayer we repeat many times the words that the Virgin Mary heard from the Archangel, and from her kinswoman Elizabeth.

Apostle Businessman

Pope Francis, Morning Mass, 21-09-2018

When the Apostle forgets his origins and begins to make a career, he moves away from the Lord and becomes an official; who does a lot of good, perhaps, but he is not an Apostle. He will be unable to transmit Jesus; he will be an organizer of pastoral plans, but in the end, a businessman. A businessman of the Kingdom of God, because he forgot where he was chosen.

Zenit.org 21-09-2018

Distractions During Mass

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

I beheld pictures referring to the defects in divine worship and how they are supernaturally repaired.

It is hard for me to say how I saw it, how the different scenes blended and harmonized, one explaining another. ...

Among other things I saw that when priests have distractions during the sacred ceremonies, Mass, for instance, they are in reality wherever their thoughts are – and during the interval a saint takes their place at the altar.

These visions show frightfully the guilt of carelessly celebrating the holy mysteries. Sometimes I see a priest leaving the sacristy vested for Mass; but he goes not to the altar. He leaves the church and goes to a tavern, a garden, a hunt, a maiden, a book, to some rendezvous, and I see him now here, now there, according to the bent of his thoughts, as if he were really and personally in those places. It is a most pitiful and shameful sight!

But it is singularly affecting to behold at this time a holy priest going through the ceremonies of the altar in his stead. I often see the priest returning for a moment during the sacrifice and then suddenly running off again to some forbidden place. Such interruptions frequently last a long time.

When the priest amends, I see it in his piety and recollectedness at the altar, etc. In many parish churches I saw the dust and dirt that had long defiled the sacred vessels cleared away, and all things put in order.

Spiritual Works and Journeys pp. 111-112

Compendium of The Gospel

Pope St John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n.1

The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christ-centred prayer. ...It has all the depth of the gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb.

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Ernesta Sculli, Moorebank, New South Wales, Ph 1300 663 502

For My Last Moments

Here is a favourite prayer of mine that I say regularly. Maybe you'd like to say it too.

John Henderson, Morwell, Victoria

"Prostrated at thy feet, and humiliated by my sins, but full of confidence in thee, O Mary! I beg thee to accept the petition my heart is about to make. It is for my last moments.

Dear Mother, I wish to request thy protection and maternal love so that in the decisive instant that thou wilt do all thy love can suggest in my behalf.

To thee, O Mother of my soul, I consecrate the last two hours of my life.

Come to my side to receive my last breath and when death has cut the thread of my days, tell Jesus, presenting to Him my soul, "I love it". That word alone will be enough to procure for me the benediction of my God and the happiness of seeing thee for all eternity.

I put my trust in thee, my Mother and hope it will not be in vain. O Mary! Pray for thy child and lead him to Jesus! Amen."

Money and Power

Pope Francis, 15-09-2018, 25th anniversary of the murder of Blessed Fr Pino Puglisi

What brings defeat is love of one's *own* life, to love *one's own* life. Those who live for themselves lose.

Money and power do not liberate the human person, but make us slaves. Those who live for themselves do not just lose something, but their entire life; while those who give themselves find meaning in life and conquer.

Zenit.org 15-09-2018

Revolution

Pope Francis, General Audience 29-08-2018

Marital love is a special gift of God, to be cultivated every day in the "domestic church," which is the family. How much need the world has of a revolution of love, of a revolution of tenderness, which saves us from the present culture of the provisional! And this revolution begins in the heart of the family.

Zenit.org 29-08-2018

Complacency About Sin

From a letter by Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver, to his archdiocese on the abuse crisis, 13-08-2018

Like Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, so have I wept for the Church and for the innocent victims. I remember when I visited Auschwitz for the first time in 1988. As I walked with horror in my heart over the palpable evil present, pondering how could human beings do this to other human beings, I heard in prayer, only Jesus Christ and he alone can redeem this evil. The same is true with the sexual abuse crisis of today, as well as with the emptying of our pews, and the abandonment of God by the world. So, what must we do?

We must recognize that complacency about evil and sin is present both in the Church and the world and has led us to where we are today. This culture of complacency among clergy and laity must come to an end!

We have also failed to recognize that the spiritual battle is real. Some say the Lord has forsaken the Church, but this is not true. Rather, there are some within the Church who have forsaken Jesus and the Gospel. Pope Francis speaks often in his homilies of the devil and his workings. The devil is real and pulls us away from the ways of Jesus and the love of the Father. The devil uses confusion, chaos, discouragement, and negative thinking to draw us away from Jesus. When one looks at salvation history one sees, beginning with Adam and Eve, moving through the Old and New Testaments, and down through the centuries to now, that it is human beings who abandon the ways of God. When the ways of God are abandoned, God lets human beings go their own way and there are always dire consequences.

Jesus tells his disciples in John 15 that "apart from me you can do nothing" and he further tells us that if we separate ourselves from the vine, Jesus, we will wither. Perhaps the reason for our empty pews, the sharp decline of the faith in Europe and the west, the decimation of many religious orders, and the sexual abuse crisis is that we are not attached to Jesus, the true vine. ...

Thus, our response to this complacency must be a return to the ways of God, which lays out the path of grace that preserves us from the real dangers of sin and the attacks of the evil one. The Father has given us his son Jesus, the Beatitudes, the Gospels, the truth, and his commandments out of love for us to keep us on the narrow way of love. He is merciful in all that he has given to us. Charity and truth must always go together. A disciple should never lead someone into sin or condone sin. Jesus never condoned sin! But rather taught that for the unrepentant, the consequence for doing so is hell (Mk 9:42, Lk 17: 1-4). Just as a parent provides boundaries for their children for their own good and protection, so has the Lord provided for us.

All of us within the Church, including the Holy Father, cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated and laypersons need to examine our consciences and ask ourselves: Do I truly know, love and serve the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? And do I follow the ways of Jesus or the ways of the world? In the formation of my conscience do I listen to the voice of God, the voice of the world, or my own voice, and do I test the voice I hear to make sure that it is in accord with the Gospel? Have I personally put my faith in Jesus Christ, and in this time of tribulation do I keep my eyes fixed on "Jesus the leader and perfecter of faith" (Heb 12: 2)? Do I know where I have come from; that God loves me and knew me before I was born (Ps 139)? Do I know where I am going, that I am created for eternal life and to know the Father, as Jesus knows him (Jn 8:14)? Do I truly believe that intimacy with Jesus can heal the wounds of my sins, weakness, or brokenness? And finally, as Jesus so frequently reminds his disciples in John 14 and 15, those who love him keep the commandments, just as he kept the Father's commandments. Do I do that? ...

In this time of darkness, may we put our faith, trust and love in Jesus who is our Saviour and Redeemer, the one who will free us, and may we live in his truth and light!

archden.org

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember
pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus –
a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."

St Teresa of Calcutta

The Offertory

Pope Francis, General Audience, 28-02-2018

Catechesis on the Mass: Preparation of the Gifts

It is praiseworthy that the faithful should present the bread and wine to the priest because they symbolize the spiritual offering of the Church assembled for the Eucharist. ...

Therefore, in the symbols of the bread and the wine, the faithful place their offering in the hands of the priest who places them on the altar, or the Lord's Table, "which is the centre of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist" (GIRM, 73). Thus, the centre of the Mass is the altar and the altar is Christ. ...

In the "fruit of the earth and the work of man" the commitment of the faithful to obey the Divine Word is offered as a "sacrifice acceptable to the Almighty Father", "for the good of all his holy Church". Thus, "the lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1368).

Certainly our offering is small but Christ needs this small amount. The Lord asks little of us and he gives us so much. He asks for little. He asks us for good will in our ordinary lives; he asks us for an open heart; he asks us to seek to be better in order to welcome the One who offers himself to us in the Eucharist; he asks us for these symbolic offerings which will become his Body and Blood.

An image of this offering of prayer is represented by incense which, consumed by fire, releases a perfumed smoke that rises upwards: incensing the offerings, as is done on feast days, incensing the Cross and the altar, the priest and the priestly people visibly manifest their bond of offering which unites these realities to Christ's Sacrifice (cf. GIRM, 75).

And do not forget: there is the altar which is Christ, but always in reference to the first altar which is the Cross and, upon the altar which is Christ, we bring our small gifts, the bread and the wine which will become so much: Jesus himself who gives himself to us. ...

In the bread and wine, we present to him the offering of our life so that it may be transformed by the Holy Spirit in the Sacrifice of Christ and become with him a single spiritual offering pleasing to the Father.

w2.vatican.va

Daily Examination of Conscience

Pope Francis, Morning Mass, 04-09-2018

Man left to his own strength does not understand the things of the Spirit.

The Spirit of God leads us to good works, to charity, to fraternity, to adore God, to know Jesus, to do many good works of charity, to pray.

On the other hand, there is the other spirit, that of the world, which leads us to vanity, pride, sufficiency, gossip – a completely different path.

Our heart, a saint once said, is like a battlefield, a field of war where these two spirits struggle. Each Christian daily, must fight in order to make room for the Spirit of God, and drive away the spirit of the world.

[To identify temptations, to clarify how these opposing forces work, a daily examination of conscience would help.]

It is very simple: We have this great gift, which is the Spirit of God, but we are weak, we are sinners, and we still have the temptation of the spirit of the world. In this spiritual combat, in this war of the spirit, we need to be victors like Jesus.

Each evening, a Christian should reflect on whether they succeeded in imitating Jesus or whether they let pride and vanity prevail. We ought to recognize what occurs in the heart.

If we do not do this, if we do not know what happens in our heart – and I don't say this, the Bible does – we are like 'animals that understand nothing,' that move along through instinct.

But we are not animals, we are children of God, baptized with the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, it is important to understand what has happened each day in my heart.

May the Lord teach us always, every day, to make an examination of conscience.

Zenit.org 04-09-2018

"By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, para 1505

That Elusive Word "Vocation"

By Sister Mary Augustine O.P.

For hundreds of years 'vocation' has meant what the Church has traditionally ascribed to it – "a call from God" to Religious Life or the Priesthood.

The recent tendency, reflecting the more secular mindset, has been to deflect the meaning away from these 'specialist' vocations to more general applications of the term which takes in the whole gamut of what God calls a person to be and do. It ranges from God's call to everyone to live in perfect union with Him (the universal call to holiness) to 'what does God want me to do with my money?' or 'where does He will me to live?' And in between you have 'career' callings and 'study callings' and marital callings (to marry this or that person).

Finally, somewhere in all this ambiguity, you have that traditional sense of 'vocation' as described above.

It is seriously unhelpful for anyone to make a muddle of all these disparate usages. Hans Urs Von Balthazar discusses vocation as a call to total and irrevocable gift of self – to God (in the case of Religious Life) or to the Church (in the case of Priesthood). Marriage is in rather a different category from either of these, being a gift of self to the spouse, and to God in a mediated sense, through that spouse.

To refer to our submission to God's Will in our day-to-day human dealings and decisions as our 'vocation' does not do the term justice and in fact works against an understanding of the deeper realities involved in the formal and once-off gift of self in Religious Consecration or Priestly Ordination. This is not to downgrade the importance of finding and doing the Will of God in every event of our life, but why not just use the traditional expressions like "doing God's Will" or "Self-Abandonment to God's Providence" to describe this fundamental reality?

'Vocation' is frequently confused with 'career' which, while it may call for dedication in the field of our choice, can never be called a total and irrevocable gift of self. Father John Hardon uses the Church's term "states of life" to cover the divisions into which adult Christians may belong – episcopacy, priesthood, religious life, marriage, single life. Only two of these are traditionally called 'vocations' – priesthood and religious life.

The word 'vocation' has a nice, important ring to it. Maybe that is why the architects of the up-coming Synod on Young People, Faith and Discernment of Vocation are using it so freely. It also has a nice inclusive ring. But we should be careful not to present young people who have not even met the one true God, with the responsibility of discerning their life's 'vocation'. Or of expecting young people who are entrenched in lifestyles that are not remotely related to Gospel principles, to assume a discernment task that they are nowhere near equipped – or possibly even willing, – to assume.

APREL Bulletin, Issue 79, 2018, p.8

A Journey of Faith

Enclosed please find my cheque to help somewhat with your incredible work. I do so appreciate your Into the Deep and thank you for having the courage to print it.

I'm 82 and buried my husband at 50, in 1985. In 1961 our son died at 4 months old – we were tested in our faith early in our marriage. Another son died at 29 in 1995 of HIV. Our only daughter died at 58 in 2017 with cancer. She had a very troublesome journey in life, with door open and closed to her mum over the years. But she, too, lost two sons – one (who we had most of his young life) took his own life at 32, and 2½ years later her other son at 24 in a car accident.

I thank God for my faith that helps me to carry my cross, my daily Mass which Father gives us 7 days a week, Confessions Saturday mornings, adoration chapel. I feel so blessed to have that.

Our Church sure is in a mess. A priest on EWTN said, 'our abusing priests have caused some of our faithful to lose their faith; they caused spiritual murder, but please don't you commit spiritual suicide.' I see in your last issue that it is a quote from St Francis de Sales (Sept ITD p.10).

Name and address supplied

Death Survey

Please answer the following questions as honestly as you can. The survey is *anonymous*. The purpose is to understand different beliefs about life after death as compared to Catholic beliefs. The more people who answer it, from different backgrounds and beliefs, the better, so please pass it on to as many others as you can. The online survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TYQGXD2> or via the ITD website or Facebook page. Please return the printed version to ITD, 12 Vincent Road, Morwell Vic 3840.

1. What do you believe happens after we die? (tick all that apply)

- Our bodies decay and there is no more life - end of story
- We all go to Heaven, regardless of what we believed or how we lived
- We all face judgment for how we lived, and our souls go to either Heaven or Hell
- We all face judgment for how we lived, and our souls go to Heaven, or Hell, or to be purified in Purgatory before entering Heaven
- We live on somewhere else, in body
- We live on somewhere else, in spirit
- We all become angels
- We all go to "a better place" (no matter how we lived or what we believed)
- We become a spirit who stays on earth to assist those we loved
- We become a spirit who stays on earth to haunt those we didn't like
- We go to the best golf course/fishing spot/shopping centre/...
- We join all our loved ones who have gone before us, no matter where they are
- We are all at peace, with no suffering (no matter how we lived or what we believed)
- Other: _____

2. Do you believe that after you die, you will again be with: (tick all that apply)

- Those you love (no matter how they lived or what they believed)
- Those who have loved you (no matter how they lived or what they believed)
- Your pets
- Those who have harmed you or hated you
- Those whom you have harmed or hated
- All souls who end up in the same place as you do, be it Heaven or Hell
- All souls who end up in the same place as you do, be it Heaven, Hell or Purgatory
- Other (please specify) _____

3. Do you believe in Heaven?

- No, I don't
- Yes, I do and I believe it can be anything anyone wants it to be
- Yes, I do. I believe it is the perfect communion of life and love with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with the Virgin Mary, and all the angels and all the blessed
- Yes, I do, but I believe it's something else (please explain below)
- _____

4. How do souls get to Heaven? (tick all that apply)

- It's automatic, we all do
- By living according to God's plan, and dying in a state of grace
- Through the prayers of the living, for the souls of the dead in Purgatory
- Through the mercy of God
- I don't believe in God, so I don't believe in Heaven
- I don't believe we have a soul
- Other: _____

5. "I don't have to do anything to get to Heaven - God loves me as I am."

- I agree, but it only applies to me and to those I love
- I agree, and it applies to everyone else too, even those I don't love and those I think are evil
- Even though He loves me as I am, I have to live according to God's law to receive his reward of Heaven
- I don't believe in God or Heaven
- Other: _____

6. Do you believe in Hell?

- Yes, everyone who has hurt me or betrayed me (or others) will go there
- Yes, if I don't live according to God's plan I could end up there
- Yes, to die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means I remain separated from God forever by my own free choice
- No, I don't believe in God so I don't believe in Hell
- No, I don't believe in Heaven so I don't believe in Hell
- Other: _____

7. If there is a different place for "good" and "bad" people, who decides?

- I make up my own rules and live by them
- God has made the rules and I can choose whether or not to live by them
- Others make up the rules and I can choose whether or not to live by them
- I don't believe there's a different place for "good" and "bad" people
- I don't believe in "good" and "bad"
- I decide who is "good" and who is "bad", and who should go to Heaven and who should go to Hell
- Everyone lives according to their truth and so everyone is "good" and so everyone goes to Heaven
- Other: _____

8. Do we need to pray for those who have died?

- Yes, we pray for those who die in God's friendship but are still imperfectly purified, that they will achieve the holiness necessary to enter Heaven
- No, there's no point, they're dead
- No, there's no point, they're already in Heaven
- Yes, to make ourselves feel better, to comfort ourselves and one another
- Other: _____

9. Do you believe in angels?

- Yes, angels are what we all become when we die (you, me, mass murderers and everyone else)
- Yes, angels are what innocent people become when they die (e.g. newborn babies)
- Yes, angels are spiritual beings of a different nature to human beings
- No, I don't believe in angels
- Angels are like the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy - they don't really exist but it's nice to pretend
- Other: _____

10. Are you Catholic?

- Yes I am
- Yes, I am but I don't go to Sunday Mass anymore
- Yes, I am but I don't believe all the Church teaches and believes
- No, I'm a Christian of another denomination (please state below)
- No, I'm a non-Christian believer (please state below)
- I have no religious beliefs
- I don't believe in God
- Other: _____

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfield	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30pm Heyfield 10.00am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Low Mass 10am) 10.30 – 11.00am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) 10.00am – 11.00am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11.00am First Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Dec on)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) 9.30am – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 2pm – 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	Wed & First Sat: (9.30am Mass) – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am First Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Jan on)
Wonthaggi	First Friday 7.00pm – 8.00pm

“Prayer joined to sacrifice constitutes the most powerful force in human history.”

Pope St John Paul II

Fear of Crosses

St John Vianney

On the Way of the Cross, you see, my children, only the first step is painful. Our greatest cross, is the fear of crosses. We have not the courage to carry our cross, and we are very much mistaken; for, whatever we do, the cross holds us tight – we cannot escape from it. What, then, have we to lose? Why not love our crosses and make use of them to take us to heaven? But, on the contrary, most men turn their backs upon crosses, and fly before them. The more they run, the more the cross pursues them, the more it strikes and crushes them with burdens. If you were wise, you would go to meet it like St. Andrew, who said, when he saw the cross prepared for him and raised up into the air, "Hail, O good cross! O admirable cross! O desirable cross! Receive me into thy arms, withdraw me from among men, and restore me to my Master, who redeemed me through thee."

Contact *Into the Deep*

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

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BSB: 013-745 (ANZ)

Account number: 2901-63632

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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. There is no guarantee that every letter will be published, and we reserve the right to edit letters. 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.

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