

Into the Deep

Issue 44

Newsletter of Orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2006

“Jesus is not a character from the past. He lives, and he walks before us as one who is alive, he calls us to follow him, the living one, and in this way to discover for ourselves too the path of life.”

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Easter homily

“Christ is Risen!”

From Pope Benedict XVI's Easter message

...Today echo powerfully the words which dumbfounded the women on the morning of the first day after the Sabbath, when they came to the tomb where Christ's body, taken down in haste from the cross, had been laid. Sad and disconsolate over the loss of their master, they found the great stone rolled away, and when they entered they saw that his body was no longer there.

As they stood there, uncertain and bewildered, two men in dazzling apparel surprised them, saying: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen” (Lk 24:5-6).

Ever since that morning, these words have not ceased to resound throughout the universe as a proclamation of joy which spans the centuries unchanged and, at the same time, is charged with infinite and ever new resonances.

“He is not here...he is risen.” The heavenly messengers announce first and foremost that Jesus “is not here”: The Son of God did not remain in the tomb, because it was not possible for him to be held prisoner by death (cf. Acts 2:24) and the tomb could not hold on to “the living one” (Rev 1:18) who is the very source of life. [...]

May the risen Lord grant that the strength of his life, peace and freedom be experienced everywhere. Today the words with which the Angel reassured the frightened hearts of the women on Easter morning are addressed to all: “Do not be afraid! ... He is not here; he is risen” (Mt 28:5-6). Jesus is risen, and he gives us peace; he himself is peace. For this reason the Church repeats insistently: “Christ is risen.”

Let the people of the third millennium not be afraid to open their hearts to him. His Gospel totally quenches the thirst for peace and happiness that is found in every human heart. Christ is now alive and he walks with us. What an immense mystery of love! Alleluia!

www.zenit.org

Marian Conference

The Diocese of Sale 10th Marian Conference will be on Saturday 13 May 2006 (Feast of Our Lady of Fatima) at St James Church, Nar Nar Goon. The theme of the conference is “Mary, Mother of Mercy.”

The day will commence at 9.30am and close at 3pm, and will include Holy Rosary, Adoration, Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

The speakers for this year's conference are Fr Brendan Lane (parish priest of Mill Park) and Fr Michael Willemsen (parish priest of Iona, Koo Wee Rup and Nar Nar Goon).

All are welcome! Bring your own lunch.

Courage to be Catholic

“We all know that to reach a goal in a sport or in one's profession, discipline and sacrifices are required; but then, by reaching a desired goal, it is all crowned with success.

Life itself is like this. In other words, becoming men and women according to Jesus' plan demands sacrifices, but these are by no means negative; on the contrary, they are a help in living as people with new hearts, in living a truly human and happy life.

Since a consumer culture exists that wants to prevent us from living in accordance with the Creator's plan, we must have the courage to create islands, oases, and then great stretches of land of Catholic culture where the Creator's design is lived out.”

Pope Benedict XVI

“Nobody can fight properly and boldly for the faith if he clings to a fear of being stripped of earthly possessions.”

St Peter Damian

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

Insist on Justice

Congratulations on an excellent issue of ITD (April 2006). Your report on the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle should have the widest possible circulation. What he is doing in his diocese is gravely scandalous.

I note also the piece urging Father Speekman to take civil action. It has been my firm view for some time now that if my bishop were to take any action in respect of myself contrary to Canon Law (but in accord with that shambles called *Toward Healing*) that I would after due warning institute civil action against him. Canon law does not prevent this. Fortunately, I do not expect this necessity, because I have observed careful canonical action on the part of my bishop and an attitude of priestly support.

But it is clear that priests may need to be ready to defend themselves by civil recourse against false charges where they are not defended by their bishop and where action contrary to canonical process is embarked upon. This is an issue of justice, and the proclamation of justice requires the practice of justice.

A Priest Reader

Grace Through Trials

On Saturdays we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our church. There I remembered the parish in Morwell, where it has been cancelled. Fr Speekman's column in the April ITD made me more firmly present. May he and Morwell receive much grace through their trials.

There are so many good people through the ages who have achieved great things through deprivation. Jesus himself was deprived of preaching by those who he made to feel uncomfortable in their transgressions! He understands!

During each occasion where I am able to get to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays I shall pray that the Morwell parish may have their own Adoration time reinstated, and for Fr Speekman's case to be resolved.

Anne Wolff, U.K.

Be at Peace

"Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

St Francis de Sales

Mother Most Pure

By Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman, in
Discourses to Mixed Congregations

Mary has been made more glorious in her person than in her office; her purity is a higher gift than her relationship to God. This is what is implied in Christ's answer to the woman in the crowd who cried out, when he was preaching, "Blessed is the womb that bore thee, and the breasts which thou hast sucked." He replied by pointing out to his disciples a higher blessedness; "Yea, rather blessed," he said, "are they who hear the word of God and keep it..."

Protestants take these words in disparagement of our Lady's greatness, but they really tell the other way. For consider them; he lays down a principle that it is more blessed to keep his commandments than to be his Mother, but who even of Protestants will say that she did not keep his commandments? She kept them surely, and our Lord does but say that such obedience was in a higher line of privilege than her being his Mother. She was more blessed in her detachment from creatures, in her devotion to God, in her virginal purity, in her fullness of grace, than in her maternity. This is the constant teaching of the holy Fathers: "More blessed was Mary," says St. Augustine, "in receiving Christ's faith, than in conceiving Christ's flesh." And St. Chrysostom declares that she would not have been blessed, though she had borne him in the body, had she not heard the word of God and kept it.

This of course is an impossible case; for she was made holy that she might be made his Mother, and the two blessednesses cannot be divided. She who was chosen to supply flesh and blood to the Eternal Word was first filled with grace in soul and body. Still, she had a double blessedness, of office and of qualification for it, and the latter was the greater. And it is on this account that the angel calls her blessed. "Full of grace," he says, "blessed among women"; and St. Elizabeth also, when she cries out, "Blessed thou that has believed."

www.motherofallpeoples.com

Totus Tuus – Totally Yours

Immaculate Conception, Mary, my Mother.

Live in me. Act in me. Speak in and through me.

Think your thoughts in my mind. Love, through my heart.

Give me your dispositions and feelings.

Teach, lead and guide me to Jesus.

Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts and behaviour.

Possess my soul. Take over my entire personality and life.

Replace it with yourself.

Incline me to constant adoration and thanksgiving.

Pray in me and through me.

Let me live in you and keep me in this union always.

Pope John Paul II

Religious Orders and Paganism

Looks like Brisbane's Womenspace has some sort of 'above ground' equivalent in Melbourne, this one including the boys as well as the girls. This will no doubt be a test for Archbishop Hart and his leadership of the archdiocese. Does he, unlike Archbishop Bathersby of Brisbane, have the sort of Catholic Christian fortitude it will take to face these people down?

Interestingly, as with Womenspace, the 'new paganism' appears to be driven by rogue elements in the religious orders. Also, as in Brisbane, the rogue elements include the Sisters of Mercy and the Presentation Sisters. Clearly, the problems in these orders have a national dimension. The Christian Brothers are involved in Melbourne. They have their problems in Brisbane too. Who can forget the luminescent crystal rock which appeared for some weeks on the altar of the chapel at Brisbane's St Leo's College shortly after they took over that institution from the Jesuits?

Michael Gilchrist writes in the April 2006 edition of AD2000 (EarthSong: Green Christianity or a new paganism?): "On the basis of information gleaned directly from the EarthSong website, an official investigation is warranted, given the use of Catholic venues and the nature of the listed topics and resource materials – with references to a "new cosmology", "ways of honouring the sacredness of all creation" and rituals to celebrate nature – none of them suggesting any connection at all with the Judeo-Christian tradition, let alone Catholicism."

Michael Gilchrist concludes his article with a warning worth repeating: "Materials promoting EarthSong under the banner of care for the environment might be anticipated in some schools and parishes over the coming months. Catholics will need to be alert since any resemblance between EarthSong and Christianity appears to be purely coincidental."

Bill King, Caboolture

Thanks and Encouragement

Thank you for your e-magazine which I read with a mixture of sadness and joy. Sadness because of the problems you and many parishes in Australia are experiencing with modernity, but joy because you also publish many spiritually nourishing articles which embrace the true beauty of our Faith.

Always see this time of frustration and suffering as a special gift from God for His special purpose and thank Him for it. He will bring much good from it. May God bless you and your work.

Maureen Wright, Lurnea, NSW

The Virtues

Catechism of the Catholic Church, para 1803

"Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.

The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.

Prayer and Humility

In the Vatican Basilica on Holy Thursday, the Holy Father presided at the Chrism Mass. Cardinals, bishops and priests present in Rome concelebrated with the Pope. Following the homily, there was the renewal of priestly vows and the blessing of the oil used for catechumens, the sick and those being confirmed.

In his homily, the Pope described "the profound significance of being a priest," as "becoming a friend of Jesus. ... This means that we must know Jesus in an ever more personal way, listening to Him, living with Him, remaining at His side."

Benedict XVI then went on to highlight how a priest "must be above all a man of prayer. ... The world has need of God, not of any god, but of the God of Jesus Christ, the God Who became flesh and blood, Who loved us enough to die for us, Who rose and created a space for mankind within Himself. This God must live within us, and we in Him. This is our call as priests; only in this way can our priestly activity prove fruitful." [...]

Later, in the Basilica of St John Lateran, Benedict XVI presided at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. [...]

After emphasising how the Lord's love "knows no limits, but man can put a limit to it," the Pope asked "what makes mankind unclean?" It is, he said, "rejection of love, not wishing to be loved, not loving. It is pride, that believes it needs no purification and closes itself off from the salvific goodness of God. It is pride, that does not wish to confess and recognise that we have need of purification."

The Lord today "invites us to imitate His humility, to entrust ourselves to it, to allow ourselves to be 'infected' by it. He invites us – however lost we may feel – to return home and allow His purifying humility to raise us up and enable us to enter into communion with Him, with God Himself."

Vatican Information Services

"Truth draws strength from itself and not from the amount of consent it arouses."

Pope Benedict XVI

Protest Unsubstantial

The substance of the editorial comment captioned “A Real Hoot!” published in your March issue also appeared in *On-line Catholics* with the observation that the protest did not receive a response from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Nevertheless it spotlighted a cartoon that denoted the view that the document could have disappeared. Indeed if that was so the document could not have had a better reception.

The signatories to the protest document were of the opinion that the view expressed by His Eminence Cardinal Pell on the subject of primacy of conscience was “outside the mainstream Catholic doctrine”.

Nothing is more repulsive than the contention that a plethora of academic degrees empowers a single dissident or a group of dissident Catholics to pontificate on what is morally acceptable to the Catholic faithful. There is hardly any substance in the protest, and it is evident that the fight of the signatories with the Church is for the control of the hearts and minds of the faithful. Paul Collins is cheek by jowl with those who have protested. His antipathy to Cardinal Pell is well documented. There is no question that his broadsides against the hierarchy have met with indifference from the Church.

Jeremias Wijeyeratne, Noble Park

Exchange Sins for Righteousness

The “admirable exchange” takes place in each confession. Christ takes on my sins and I take on his righteousness!

Unfortunately in Rome, as in any great city, there are many homeless persons, poor brothers dressed in dirty rags who sleep on the street, and who drag with them everywhere they go their few belongings.

We could imagine what would happen if one day the word spread that in the Via Condotti there was a luxurious boutique where each one of them could go, leave their rags, take a good shower, pick out whatever they want, and take it, just like that, free, “without expense, without money,” because for some unknown reason the owner had given to them all this out of generosity.

This is what happens in each well-made confession.

Jesus inculcated this with the parable of the prodigal son: “Quickly bring the finest robe” (Luke 15:22).

Rising up anew after each confession we can exclaim in the words of Isaiah: “For he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice” (Isaiah 61:10).

The story of the publican is also repeated: “O God, be merciful to me a sinner.” “I tell you, this one went home justified” (Luke 18:13f).

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Pontifical Household preacher, Zenit

The Superbug

There is one sensitive indicator of the seriousness of the current illness that is destroying the Catholic faith in Australia. That indicator has been created by the diocesan bishops, and it is supposed to function under their authority. Not only has it outgrown itself, but through lack of the exercise of proper authority, it has grown out of control. I refer to it as *The Superbug!*

Every diocese has one, and it is that powerful bureaucracy that is commonly known as the Catholic Education Office. It is that part of the structure of the Church which controls and directs Catholic education in this country. However, The Superbug has become so powerful that it is destroying the Catholic Church from the inside out.

The Superbug is hyper-sensitive to any form of criticism, especially of the orthodox variety. Its power to resist any constructive form of analysis, evaluation or investigation, comes from the creators of The Superbug, hence its super-immune system. Any other Catholic organism, especially of the priestly variety, that comes within The Superbug’s range with even a hint of criticism, is viciously attacked and devoured.

The Superbug no longer prays, believes, thinks or acts with the Church. It believes itself intelligent enough to produce its own ideas about prayer, worship, truth, faith, morality, church and progress.

Partly, the crisis has come about because of the confusion and disagreement among the diocesan bishops about how to treat this deadly Superbug. Those with moral courage believe it should be aggressively treated, if not completely eradicated. The latter is unthinkable to the majority of the diocesan bishops, because they believe there is nothing wrong with it, it is doing a terrific job; besides without it, their dioceses would not be able to function effectively. Some bishops are of the opinion that The Superbug should be given even greater independence and protection from key Church organisms such as parish priests.

Some bishops have become so dependent on The Superbug in spite of its lethal effects on the Faith. They have become totally consumed by it, so much so that every other Church structure and organism is considered expendable to ensure The Superbug’s complete immunity.

However, the major reason for the crisis is that the majority of the diocesan bishops have themselves been infected with the ideas of The Superbug – ideas that have been responsible for the disease that is steadily devouring the Faith.

Hence, when bishops themselves, the authentic guardians of the Faith are confused and divided, the Church faces an ever-deepening crisis, and urgent and extraordinary measures are required.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell

Whose Responsibility?

“While the Bishop’s authority is to watch over the orthodoxy of religious instruction and the observance of Christian morals in the Catholic schools, it is the task of the whole educative community to ensure that a distinctive Christian educational environment is maintained in practice.

This responsibility applies chiefly to Christian parents who confide their children to the school. Having chosen it does not relieve them of a personal duty to give their children a Christian upbringing. They are bound to cooperate actively with the school – which means supporting the educational efforts of the school and utilising the structures offered for parental involvement, in order to make certain that the school remains faithful to Christian principles of education.

An equally important role belongs to the teachers in safeguarding and developing the distinctive mission of the Catholic school, particularly with regard to the Christian atmosphere which should characterise its life and teaching.

Where difficulties and conflicts arise about the authentic Christian character of the Catholic school, hierarchical authority can and must intervene.”

*The Catholic School (n.73)
Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education*

Message for the Media

Extract from Pope Benedict XVI’s Message for the World Day of Social Communications, which this year is due to be celebrated on May 28:

“To inform the consciences of individuals and help shape their thinking is never a neutral task. Authentic communication demands principled courage and resolve. It requires a determination of those working in the media not to wilt under the weight of so much information nor even to be content with partial or provisional truths. Instead it necessitates both seeking and transmitting what is the ultimate foundation and meaning of human, personal and social existence. In this way the media can contribute constructively to the propagation of all that is good and true.”

The Last Word

“We know that evil does not have the last word, as he who triumphs is Christ crucified and risen, and his victory is manifested with the force of merciful love. His resurrection gives us this certainty: Despite all the darkness in the world, evil does not have the last word. Supported by this truth, we will be able to commit ourselves with greater courage and enthusiasm to make a more just world come into being.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Defeating Goliath

As most readers will know the crisis in Catholic Education is neither new nor limited to the Sale diocese. Thomas Groome’s ‘shared Christian praxis’ or an approach of ‘hermeneutic of suspicion’ originated overtly in Australia in Parramatta diocese, spreading to Canberra-Goulburn, and has now been taken on board by the shared Religious Education curricula of at least Sandhurst, Sale and Tasmanian dioceses.

Groome says that we should treat with suspicion the fundamental teachings of our Catholic faith and do not have to believe them (for further information on Groome see previous issues of ITD and Eamonn Keane’s well-researched book *Crisis in Religious Education*). Mons. Elliott has instigated some excellent R.E. textbooks for Melbourne archdiocese but like *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, my research indicates that they are ignored in most schools.

Even if Catholic schools did teach the true essentials of our faith it would still produce little fruit if non-Catholics, ill-informed Catholics and non practicing Catholics were teaching it and the ambience of the whole school was not Catholic. It is all a huge Goliath! A concrete example: Recently my daughter-in-law took her 5½ year old daughter to Prep. for the first time. The Principal of the Catholic primary school addressed the new parents – told them not to hang around the school – their kids were big now and in professional hands. Anyway, he said, by the time they’re in Grade 4 or 5 they will be having their first sexual experience anyway!

Even good priests and bishops seem powerless before the all-powerful modernist Catholic Education Offices who in our case have black-listed at least one good Catholic teacher (for whistle-blowing) from all Australian Catholic schools. Fr Speakman has suffered a similar fate as all readers will know.

It seems impossible that we few (whingers, fundamentalists etc. – in the modernists’ eyes) can do anything against this institutionalised Goliath. The Devil is having a field day. We sacrifice nearly one out of three of our unborn children to him – not to mention the millions he gets from abortifacient contraception. Of those children who manage to get born and baptised, Satan wins over huge numbers of children in our schools because we as Catholic parents and grandparents are not prepared to take on our responsibilities and get out of our comfort zone.

Our Lady of Medjugorje has allegedly said that the 5 pebbles we need to defeat this Goliath are: fasting, penance, confession, prayer and the Eucharist. I think we also need to present relevant information to those good, caring and open Catholics who need support and need to be shown how most of our so-called Catholic schools are failing to pass on the real treasures of our faith.

Richard Earle, Marlo

The AusChurch Survey

1. Which of the following describe best why you go to Mass?
 - a. Mum says I have to.
 - b. My wife makes me.
 - c. The priest never talks about contraception.
 - d. You mean I'm supposed to go?
2. Which of the following is your favourite sacrament?
 - a. Social justice.
 - b. Coffee and donuts.
 - c. I like all three of them.
3. Which of the following describes why you don't go to confession?
 - a. I'm a good person.
 - b. Jesus loves me.
 - c. It's not in the Bible.
 - d. The last time I went the priest said I didn't have to go anymore.
4. Who can administer Confirmation?
 - a. The bishop.
 - b. The archbishop.
 - c. The bride and groom.
 - d. Barbara.
5. Why don't we have to follow the Pope's teachings?
 - a. My priest says we do it differently in Australia.
 - b. My priest says we do it differently in our diocese.
 - c. He's not married.
 - d. He's old.
 - e. He's German.
6. What words does the priest say at Mass?
 - a. It doesn't matter.
 - b. I don't know, the last time I went it was all in Latin.
 - c. It doesn't matter so long as its not Latin.
7. Who decided which books were to be included in the Bible?
 - a. The parish council.
 - b. A diocesan committee.
 - c. A diocesan survey.
 - d. The Council of Priests.
 - e. Barbara.
8. Which of the following is a valid reason for missing Mass? (tick all that apply)
 - a. Illness.
 - b. It's a hot day and the kids want to go to the beach (lake/pool).
 - c. Football game/cricket practice.
 - d. I plan to go on Wednesday with the school.

Thank you for your cooperation. Your answers will be fed into a computer and assist AusChurch in correlating new church teachings we can all live with. Please feel free to make your own questions and pass them on to us.

Adapted from John Mallon's "AmeriChurch Survey", with permission. Mr Mallon is contributing editor to Inside the Vatican, and has regular columns on Catholic.Org. An archive of his work appears at <http://www.johnmallon.net>.

Lord, He Whom You Love is Ill

*From a homily by Father Raniero Cantalamessa,
preacher to the Pontifical Household*

Before Christ, sickness was considered closely linked to sin. In other words, people were convinced that sickness was also the consequence of some personal sin that had to be expiated.

With Jesus, this attitude changed somewhat. "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases" (Matthew 8:17). On the cross, he gave new meaning to human suffering, including sickness: It is no longer punishment, but redemption. Illness unites us to him; it sanctifies, refines the soul, prepares the day in which God will dry every tear and there will be no longer sickness, or weeping, or pain. [...]

Sickness and suffering open between us and Jesus on the cross an altogether special channel of communication. The sick are not passive members of the Church, but the most active, most precious members. In God's eyes, one hour of their suffering, endured with patience, can be worth more than all the activities of the world, if they are done only for oneself.

Now a word for those who must look after the sick, at home or in health structures. The sick person certainly has need of care, of scientific competence, but he has even more need of hope. No medicine alleviates the sick person more than to hear the doctor say: "I have good hopes for you." When it is possible to do so without deception, hope must be given. Hope is the best "oxygen tent" for a sick person. The sick must not be left alone. One of the works of mercy is to visit the sick, and Jesus warned us that one of the points of the Last Judgment will be precisely this: "I was sick and you visited me. I was sick and you did not visit me" (Matthew 25:36,43).

Something we can all do for the sick is to pray. Almost all the sick of the Gospel were cured because some one presented them to Jesus and pleaded for them. The simplest prayer, which we can all make our own, is the one that the sisters Martha and Mary addressed to Jesus, in the circumstance of the sickness of their brother Lazarus: "Lord, he whom you love is ill" (John, 11:3).

www.zenit.org

The Trial Freedom Brings

"In order to live fulfilling lives in freedom, it is necessary to overcome the trial that freedom itself brings: in other words, temptation. Only when freed from the slavery of lies and sin can human beings – through obedience to the faith that opens them to truth – discover the full meaning of their lives and achieve peace, love and happiness."

Pope Benedict XVI

World Day of Prayer for Vocations – May 7th

From Pope Benedict XVI's message for the 43rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Zenit)

... The concept is indeed wonderful: We are called to live as brothers and sisters of Jesus, to feel that we are sons and daughters of the same Father. This is a gift that overturns every merely human idea and plan.

Temptation to Resist

... What should be said therefore of the temptation, which is very strong nowadays, to feel that we are self-sufficient to the point that we close ourselves to the mysterious plan of God for us? ... In order to answer the call of God and start on our journey, it is not necessary to be already perfect. We know that the awareness of his own sin allowed the prodigal son to start on his return journey and thus feel the joy of reconciliation with the Father. Weaknesses and human limits do not present obstacles, as long as they help to make us more aware of the fact that we need the redeeming grace of Christ.

Universal Call to Holiness

In Christ, the Head of the Church, which is his Body, all Christians form “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him” (1Peter2:9). The Church is holy, even if her members need to be purified, in order that holiness, which is a gift of God, can shine in them with its full splendour.

The Second Vatican Council highlights the universal call to holiness, when it affirms: “The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to his own purpose and grace. They are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the Baptism of faith they truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way, they are really made holy” (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 40).

Called to the Priesthood

Within the framework of this universal call, Christ, the High Priest, in his solicitude for the Church, then calls, in every generation, persons who are to take care of his people; in particular, he calls to the ministerial priesthood men who are to exercise a fatherly role, whose source is the very fatherhood of God (cf.Eph3:14). The mission of the priest in the Church cannot be substituted. Therefore, even if in some regions there is a scarcity of clergy, it should never be doubted that Christ continues to raise up men who, like the Apostles, leaving behind all other work, dedicate themselves completely to the celebration of the sacred mysteries, to the preaching of the Gospel and to the pastoral ministry.

Called to the Consecrated Life

... Another special vocation, which occupies a place of honour in the Church, is the call to the consecrated life. Following the example of Mary of Bethany who “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching” (Lk10:39),

many men and women consecrate themselves to a total and exclusive following of Christ. Although they offer different kinds of services in the field of human formation and the care of the poor, in teaching or in assisting the sick, they do not consider these activities as the principal aim of their life, since, as the Code of Canon Law well underlines, “The first and foremost duty of all religious is to be the contemplation of divine things and assiduous union with God in prayer” (Can 663 §1).

Where People Pray, Vocations Blossom

... Remembering the counsel of Jesus: “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (Matt 9:37), we acknowledge the great need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. It is not surprising that, where people pray fervently, vocations blossom. The holiness of the Church depends essentially on union with Christ and on being open to the mystery of grace that operates in the heart of the Christians.

Prayer for Vocations

Therefore, I should like to invite all the faithful to nurture an intimate relationship with Christ, the Teacher and Pastor of his people, imitating Mary who kept the divine mysteries in her heart and meditated them diligently (cf.Lk2:19). Together with her, who occupies a central position in the mystery of the Church, we pray:

*O Father, raise up among Christians
numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, to
keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of
your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and
the administration of the Sacraments, with which you
continually renew your faithful.*

*Give us holy ministers of your altar,
who are careful and fervent guardians of the
Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ
for the redemption of the world.*

*Call ministers of your mercy,
who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread
the joy of your forgiveness.*

*Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with
joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son
and, docile to His teachings, may she care for
vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the
consecrated life.*

*Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated
men and women, and all the baptised in Christ, so
that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the
service of the Gospel.*

*This we pray You through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.*

A Coherent Life of Faith

Prior to praying the Angelus with tens of thousands of faithful gathered in St Peter's Square on April 2, Benedict XVI dedicated his remarks entirely to the figure of John Paul II.

"On April 2 last year," said the Pope, "the beloved Pope John Paul II was living through the last phase of his earthly pilgrimage, a pilgrimage of faith, love and hope that left a profound mark in the history of the Church and of humanity.

"His agony and death constituted almost a prolongation of the Easter Triduum. We all recall the images of his last Way of the Cross on Good Friday. Unable to go to the Colosseum, he followed events from his private chapel, holding the cross in his hands. Then, on Easter Sunday, he imparted the 'Urbi et Orbi' blessing, without managing to pronounce a word, just gesturing with his hand. It was the most painful and moving of blessings, which he left us testimony of his will to carry out his ministry right to the end.

"Thus John Paul II died as he had always lived, animated by the indomitable courage of faith, giving himself up to God and entrusting himself to Mary Most Holy. ... His heritage is immense, but the message of his long pontificate can be summarised in the words with which he chose to open it, here in St Peter's Square on October 22, 1978: 'Open wide the doors to Christ!'"

Benedict XVI then highlighted how John Paul II incarnated this appeal "with his entire person and his entire mission as Peter's Successor," especially in his apostolic trips. His meetings with the crowds, with religious communities, and with political and religious leaders were "like a single grand gesture, confirming those opening words. He announced Christ always, presenting Him to everyone – just as Vatican Council II had – as a response to man's hopes for freedom, justice and peace."

During the last years of his life, "the Lord gradually stripped him of everything, in order to assimilate him fully to Himself. And when he could no longer travel, no longer even walk, and finally not even speak, his gestures and announcement were reduced to essentials: to the giving of himself right to the end. His death was the fulfilment of a coherent witness of faith that touched the hearts of so many men and women of good will."

"John Paul II," the Pope concluded, "left us on a Saturday, dedicated especially to Mary, towards whom he always felt a filial devotion. We ask the heavenly Mother of God to help us treasure all this great Pontiff gave and taught us."

Vatican Information Service

Altar Girl Hazards

Are altar girls a good idea? Recently I was at a Mass where I do not usually go. The altar girl, correctly vested, served Mass with pleasing decorum.

After Mass, attending to the altar, she came and went between the sacristy and the sanctuary. Now she had devested, revealing her street clothes, which consisted of a very few inches of frilly pants and a fashionable, revealing, inadequate top. In fact, she wore less, and she wore it more provocatively, than the professional prostitutes of the infamous red light district of Istanbul that I happened to see on a film that evening; in her case, the effect enhanced by her beautiful, mostly exposed, youthful body.

Father would have been put in a very awkward position in the sacristy with her, and with all the sexual abuse allegations involving priests today, it is very unfair to subject any priest to that.

Molly Brennan, Bendigo

Take Your Cares to Our Lady

I am writing to you to let you know once again, your little paper with a big punch certainly speaks on 'the Truth'.

Here in Newborough parish each week the same machinery of modernism rolls on and on and on. To give you a simple example – As parishioners file into the church you'd think it was Market Day. The non-stop chatter is a very serious distraction from our Lord's Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Some people it seems, come there for a social gathering, or the latest and greatest of happenings around Newborough.

Our priest, God bless him, just lets it all go on! Recently speaking to a good Catholic man we were discussing about the sad, sad plight of the Holy Catholic Church. After we were speaking for some time, he said, "Priests have not been taught properly." If that is so, why not adhere to the rosary. One hears so often today, why is such and such going wrong? Why are young people not going to Mass? Even though we also have problems in my family, my dear mother said – problems are there to overcome. And many, many times she said – to better the world, start on yourself.

Finally, it may be very bleak at times and the cross gets very heavy – take your problems to Our Blessed Lady, the Mother of Sorrows, Joys, Peace and many other titles. Someone remarked to me once, "We can't always be as good as you." To this statement I make the reply: I am a sinner, and when going to Confession, I thank God at least, thank Him and Our Lady for their love each day.

Happy Easter to everyone.

Peter Duyndam, Newborough

What are the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady? See page 11 for the answer.

Credible Experts

I wrote a letter to the Warragul Parish Council on 3-3-2006 expressing again my great concern about the deadly nature of Groome's methodology used in the new Religious Education Curriculum "Journeying Together in Hope" in the diocese of Sale. I also put in a copy of Eamonn Keane's article "Yet another well-Groomed Curriculum" from ITD February 2006.

I got a letter back from Fr Herman Hengel, who wrote: "Eamonn Keane... Can't you find another guru about this Thomas Groome's shared praxis???" You and others keep quoting him, and no other 'expert' can be found. There doesn't seem to be anybody else who has a negative opinion about Thomas Groome's methods of teaching. Are all the people in America, Ireland, England and Australia who have accepted the Thomas Groome's shared praxis stupid? Even Jesus uses the same method as Thomas Groome's shared praxis as a method of teaching: e.g. with the disciples going to Emmaus, the discussion with the crowds at the time of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes."

Most of the world's bishops believe that Bishop F.W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln U.S.A., who wrote the preface in Eamonn Keane's book, "A Generation Betrayed" is a trustworthy expert on Catholic teaching, and has put a little backbone in a lot of U.S. bishops.

There was an article in AD2000 in 1996 by Michael Gilchrist – "Bishop Bruskewitz of Lincoln lays it on the line." In it he explained that Bruskewitz was one bishop who had finally declared 'enough is enough', saying that certain organisations and public stances were off-limits if Catholics wished to remain in the Church. A list of organisations was given (including those promoting dissent, abortion, or euthanasia) and a warning that Catholics who attained or retained membership in any of the listed organisations after a certain date were forbidden to receive Holy Communion. Continued membership after a later date would incur automatic excommunication. Fr Kenneth Baker SJ, editor of *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* commented, "Certainly his action brings home the point that bishops have responsibility for the faith in their dioceses. Bruskewitz is a bishop who has the guts to let his people know that some things are not in conformity with Catholic life."

There are more well-known experts on the teaching of the Catholic Church such as Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver and Msgr. Michael Wrenn who regularly appear on the Catholic TV Network EWTN, who have a very negative opinion about Groome's methodology, the confusing 'hermeneutic of suspicion' they describe as 'a toxic wasteland'. I have heard nobody on EWTN who has a negative opinion on Eamonn Keane's books, all these experts see Keane's books as works of superb content and high intellectual order, that must be read and studied by the ones who are responsible for Catholic education.

Leo Willems, Warragul

Abandoned to God

From a homily by Pope Benedict XVI

The person who abandons himself totally in God's hands does not become God's puppet, a boring "yes man"; he does not lose his freedom. Only the person who entrusts himself totally to God finds true freedom, the great, creative immensity of the freedom of good.

The person who turns to God does not become smaller but greater, for through God and with God he becomes great, he becomes divine, he becomes truly himself. The person who puts himself in God's hands does not distance himself from others, withdrawing into his private salvation; on the contrary, it is only then that his heart truly awakens and he becomes a sensitive, hence, benevolent and open person.

The closer a person is to God, the closer he is to people. We see this in Mary. The fact that she is totally with God is the reason why she is so close to human beings. For this reason she can be the Mother of every consolation and every help, a Mother whom anyone can dare to address in any kind of need in weakness and in sin, for she has understanding for everything and is for everyone the open power of creative goodness.

In her, God has impressed his own image, the image of the One who follows the lost sheep even up into the mountains and among the briars and thornbushes of the sins of this world, letting himself be spiked by the crown of thorns of these sins in order to take the sheep on his shoulders and bring it home.

Zenit News 14-12-2005

Men of Prayer

Pope Benedict XVI to Priests

"The reading of sacred Scripture is prayer, it must be prayer – it must emerge from prayer and lead to prayer. The evangelists tell us that the Lord repeatedly – for entire nights – withdrew to the mountain to pray alone. We also have need of this 'mountain': It is the interior height we must scale, the mountain of prayer. Only in this way is friendship developed. Only in this way can we carry out our priestly service, only in this way can we take Christ and his Gospel to men. Simple activism may even be heroic. But external action, in the end, remains without fruit and loses effectiveness, if it is not born from a profound intimate communion with Christ.

The time we dedicate to this is truly time of pastoral activity, of an authentically pastoral activity. A priest must be above all a man of prayer. In its frenetic activism the world often loses its direction. Its action and capacities become destructive, if the strength of prayer fails, from which spring the waters of life capable of making the arid earth fruitful.

... To be a friend of Jesus, to be a priest means to be a man of prayer."

New Compendium of the Catechism

The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is now available in Australia!

The Compendium is a book of 598 questions and answers, summarising the Catechism promulgated in 1992. The Compendium was published in June last year in Italian, and is now available in English. Contact any good Catholic bookshop to buy your own copy – and an extra one to give as a gift!

In July last year, Pope Benedict recommended this Compendium to all Catholics:

“Dear brothers and sisters, at the beginning of the third millennium, how necessary it is that the whole Christian community proclaim, teach and witness integrally, unanimously and in agreement the truth of the Catholic faith, of the doctrine and of morality!

May the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church contribute also to the desired renewal of catechesis and evangelisation so that all Christians – children, youths and adults, families and communities – docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, may become catechists and evangelisers in all environments, helping others to encounter Christ. We ask this with confidence of the Virgin Mother of God, star of evangelisation.”

In an interview with Zenit in July 2005, Monsignor Tommaso Scenico, head of the Congregation for Clergy’s office of catechesis, commented on the Compendium:

“St Pius X’s catechism lends itself to memorisation. It was not promulgated by the Pope for the whole Catholic Church. It was produced for the Diocese of Rome. Then, by extension, St Pius X’s catechism spread all over the world and was understood as the universal catechism. When Pope John Paul II made the gift of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) to the Church in 1992, it was the first time that a Pope promulgated a catechism for the whole world.

And I must say that in these 13 years, from 1992 until today, the Catechism has truly been a sure norm for the teaching of the faith, a valid and legitimate instrument of ecclesial communion, an instrument of renewal to which the Holy Spirit incessantly calls the Church, a reference text for the elaboration of local catechisms and, finally, a model of inculturation of the revealed faith. Therefore, the CCC, the deposit of the faith, is unrepeatable.

The Pope maintained that...it was worthwhile to condense – a rich volume of almost 990 pages – what the Church believes, lives, celebrates and prays. ...

Here is the maternal concern of the Church to give a small version, that is, a synthesis of the unchanged and unchangeable deposit of the faith.”

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Cardinal Georges Cottier, O.P.

Pro-theologian of the Pontifical Household

The devil is much more dangerous as tempter than through extraordinary signs or astonishing external manifestations, because the gravest evil is sin.

It is no accident that we ask in the Lord’s prayer: Lead us not into temptation. Against sin the Christian can fight victoriously with prayer, prudence, in humility knowing the fragility of human freedom, with recourse to the sacraments, above all Reconciliation and the Eucharist. He must also ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of discernment, knowing that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are received with the grace of Baptism.

Saint Thomas and Saint John of the Cross affirm that we have three tempters: the devil, the world (we certainly recognise this in our society) and ourselves, that is, self-love. Saint John of the Cross maintains that the most dangerous tempter is we ourselves because we alone deceive ourselves.

The Devil Distracts Us From God

In the face of deceit, it is desirable that Catholic faithful have an ever more profound knowledge of Christian doctrine. The apostolate must be promoted for the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, of extraordinary usefulness to combat ignorance. The devil perhaps is instigator of this ignorance: He distracts man from God, and it is a great loss that can be contained by promoting an adequate apostolate in the media, in particular television, considering the amount of time that many people spend watching television programs, often with contents that are culturally inconsistent and immoral.

The action of the devil is also unleashed against the men of the Church: in 1972 the Supreme Pontiff Paul VI spoke of the “smoke of Satan that has entered the temple of God,” alluding to the sins of Christians, to the devaluation of the morality of customs and to decadences (let us consider the history of the religious Orders and Congregations, in which the need has always been noted of reforms to react to the decadence), to yielding to the temptations in the pursuit of a career, of money and of wealth in which the members of the clergy themselves can incur, committing sins that cause scandal.

A Beautiful Victory

... A sinner who remains set in his sin is more wretched than one who is possessed. The conversion of heart is the most beautiful victory over the influence of Satan, against which the Sacrament of Reconciliation has an absolutely central importance, because in the mystery of the Redemption God has liberated us from sin, and gives us, when we have fallen, the restoration of his friendship.

Judas' Betrayal

"There is much talk about Judas' betrayal, without realising that it is being repeated. Christ is being sold again, no longer to the leaders of the Sanhedrin for thirty denarii, but to editors and booksellers for billions of denarii."

Father Cantalamessa

Liturgical Dance

By Father Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University

Q: Is so-called liturgical dancing allowed in English-speaking countries where traditionally dancing is not regarded as culturally proper? Can it be carried out during solemn occasions such as the celebration of the Mass? - F.Y., Auckland, New Zealand

A: The document that comes closest to being an official commentary on this theme hails from an essay published by the official organ of the then Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, *Notitiae*, 11 (1975) 202-205. This article is labeled as a "qualified and authoritative sketch." It is considered by the congregation as "an authoritative point of reference for every discussion on the matter." Therefore, it is commended for study by diocesan liturgical commissions and offices of worship.

The article was later republished with permission in the April/May 1982 Newsletter of the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which consequently published directives that "all dancing, (ballet, children's gesture as dancing, the clown liturgy) are not permitted to be "introduced into liturgical celebrations of any kind whatever."

Although not specifically mentioned in the instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, dance can be included in the overall prohibition on introducing elements not contemplated by the liturgical books.

On some occasions a certain form of dance has been introduced within the context of papal liturgies on the occasion of regional synods of bishops or canonisation ceremonies. But these were usually associated with elements of African or Asian culture and are to be considered as special exceptions in virtue of the Pope's universal mission.

On occasions Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, has publicly criticised certain forms of introducing dance into Western liturgy especially in forms which reduce the sacred rite to a spectacle. I am also aware that he has reiterated these criticisms privately to the bishops of several countries during their five-yearly "ad limina" visits to Rome.

Zenit

The Elusive 'Catholic Ethos'

"Catholic ethos" is a term that is bandied around very readily in Catholic schools and hospitals.

According to a Zenit report (20-03-2006), a Catholic hospital in London was found to be referring women for abortions. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor reacted strongly, writing a letter to the board, demanding that the hospital actually *act* according to its Catholic ethos. He wrote that it did not seem clear that everyone at the hospital *accepted the implications* of the hospital maintaining a Catholic ethos. He referred here to "the tensions and conflicts between Catholic moral teaching and contemporary secular medical practice (and the expectations and attitudes of many non-Catholic and Catholic patients)."

The Cardinal went on to say that "there must be clarity that the hospital, being a Catholic hospital with a distinct vision of what is truly in the interests of human persons, cannot offer its patients, non-Catholic or Catholic, the whole range of services routinely accepted by many in modern secular society as being in a patient's best interest."

He called for a revision and clarification – and enforcement – of the code of ethics, so that it was clear that no referrals or practices that are inconsistent with Catholic ethical teaching could be offered (including referrals for abortions, prescriptions of contraceptives, or arranging for amniocentesis for purposes other than safe delivery). Also that "anyone who while in the hospital recommends such procedures, arranges for them to be carried out elsewhere" or "does anything with the intention that it be preliminary to or an initiation of the carrying out of the procedure elsewhere" would be "formally and therefore always wrongfully cooperating in the unacceptable procedure or other activity".

Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor is ensuring that a Catholic facility claiming to have a Catholic ethos, actually *knows* what this means, and is *faithful to it* in word and action. If only someone would make our schools understand this!

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady

- ✘ The prophecy of Simeon.
- ✘ The flight into Egypt.
- ✘ The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple.
- ✘ The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary.
- ✘ The Crucifixion.
- ✘ The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross.
- ✘ The burial of Jesus.

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Cowwarr-Heyfld	1 st Friday alternately: Cwr 7.30pm–8.30am Heyfield 10am – 4.30pm
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) 10am – 11am
Cranbourne	Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat in the Church: (9.30 Mass) 10am – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by swipe card.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am First Fridays 7.30pm – midnight (alternating months, December onwards)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9am – 12noon 2 nd Thursday 10am – 11am 11 th of the month 1 Hour after Mass
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) 9.30am – 10.30am
Morwell	<i>CANCELLED</i>
Orbost	Friday 10am – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 10.30am – 11.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am – 2pm First Friday 11.30am – 6pm
Trafalgar	Tuesdays 10am – 11am First Saturdays 10am – 11am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am First Fridays 7.30pm – midnight (alternating months, January onwards)

Please contact us to update and extend this list with hours of Adoration throughout Gippsland.

Mass for Vocations

Sale Saturday 9am

The Best Homily of All

The greatest priest who ever lived would give the same homily every time, over and over, and it was just two lines.

St John Vianney would tell the people every Sunday, “If you only knew how much Jesus loves you in the Blessed Sacrament, you would die of happiness.” Then pointing to the Tabernacle he would say, “JESUS IS REALLY THERE.”

People came from all over France to hear him talk and he would say the same thing every Sunday.

So profoundly moved to the very depth of his soul at the realisation of the love and presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, that when he pointed to the Tabernacle to tell the people that Jesus is really there, he would begin to weep for joy. [...]

St John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, was proclaimed by the Church to be the model and patron of all priests.

*Excerpt from Letters to a Brother Priest
By Fr Vincent Martin Lucia and Msgr. Josefino Ramirez*

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

Contact Into the Deep

www.stoneswillshout.com

stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au

PO Box 446, Traralgon, Vic 3844

- *Please notify by email if you would like to be added to the regular emailing list.*
- *There is no subscription fee.*
- *Donations are welcome! (Cheques made out to John Henderson please.)*

ITD is released on or around the first day of each month by email; printed copies up to a week later. Deadline for contributions is one week before the end of the month.

Editor - Janet Kingman

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

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, our diocesan newspaper,
- 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, address and phone number 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.