

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 7

Newsletter of the Confraternity of St Michael, Gippsland

April 2003

## **Be Holy, Faithful to Rome**

During an audience with priests and seminarians, John Paul II highlighted the need for holiness and fidelity to Rome.

“Profound love for and fidelity to the Successor of St. Peter, together with internal and external obedience to the Magisterium and discipline of the Church, will enable you to participate in the necessary renewal of ecclesial life of your countries of origin,” the Pope said.

Before bidding the students farewell, the Holy Father expressed his hope “that you be holy priests.”

“Make the holy Mass the spiritual centre of your whole day and pray much,” he urged.

“Take the rosary in your hands to contemplate, together with Mary, the face of Christ.”

Zenit news

## **Vatican II Liturgy**

The prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, Cardinal Francis Arinze, recently commented on the state of the Catholic liturgy since Vatican II.

He observed that the introduction of the vernacular language in the liturgy “was not done without difficulty.”

Some traditional prayers, he said, “are not easy to translate.” Proper translation is an enormous task because “we have to be faithful not only to the spirit of the Council, but especially to what was said and written.”

He complained that “many bishops and priests have not adequately studied the texts of the Council,” and as a result changes in the liturgy have often been done improperly.

The Nigerian cardinal expressed a dim view of ‘creativity’ in the liturgy, remarking that if priests make their own changes “there will be as many kinds of Masses as there are priests.”

Everyone involved in the liturgy, he said, including lectors and choir members as well as ministers – should be careful not to “attract attention to themselves rather than the mysteries they celebrate.”

“The Church did not begin today, and will not end with me,” he said. “The Church was established by the Lord, and her tradition of sacred rites cannot be changing from one day to the next.”

Catholic News Service

## **The Church’s Passion**

The Church, the mystical body of Christ, is living out the same Passion now, that Christ lived out in His own body during His life on earth ~ the agony, betrayal, loneliness, scourging.

But we know that He sent us the Holy Spirit and promised that He would always be with us.

We live in hope through the suffering.

Stay awake, pray.

Be not afraid.

From Fr Byrne’s talk in Traralgon, Nov 2002

## **Could You Not Watch One Hour With Me?**

These words of Our Lord to the Apostles (Mt.26:40) apply to us today. Jesus is present in the tabernacle in our churches and He wants us to visit Him, to tell Him of our joys, hopes and sufferings.

A Holy Hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a recognition of His wondrous presence and a channel of great graces for ourselves, for the whole Church, for the entire world.

I the Lord Am With You Always, compiled by C. McCarthy

# The CEO Dictatorship

On 27 November 2002 the chairman of the school board at Marist Sion College in Warragul, Danny Goss, wrote to the chairmen of the other six Catholic secondary schools boards in the diocese of Sale. His letter is published below in full. He asks for their support in resisting the recent rise in the levy that the Catholic Education Office requires schools to pay for each student. The Warragul board has decided to withhold payment.

Most boards have not replied to Mr Goss regarding his letter. Perhaps this non-response can be explained by a letter from Bishop Coffey, dated 30 January 2003, telling the school boards to disregard the letter. The relevant part of the Bishop's letter is also published here.

While readers can judge for themselves the merits of each letter, our concern is that the Catholic Education Office has presided over a 95% failure rate in passing on the Catholic faith to our children. Despite this, the CEO seems to be the central organising force for diocesan initiatives, including our so-called pastoral plan, *Journeying Together*.

Dear ...

Re: CEO Levy

I write to you as fellow Chairman of a Catholic Secondary School Board to seek your support in attempting to overturn the recent rise in the CEO levy that has been undemocratically burdened on our schools.

These annual rises are now, in the view of my Board, totally out of hand. Each year they continue to impact heavily on our school budget and we fail to see how we can continue to ask our parents to fund an organization that has little impact or influence at Marist Sion College.

The most recent rise of \$20.00 has come about without any consultation with or representation from Marist Sion College. Like all Catholic Colleges our 2003 budget is extremely tight. No doubt you and your Board, have spent quite some time on determining next year's budget. In our case we have asked our administration to reduce teaching staff by the equivalent of 2.5 teachers. This has a serious impact on the type of programs we run at Marist Sion. After asking our staff to accept budget cuts we are then left in the position of increasing our fees to pay the CEO. During my term as Chairman of this College over the past four years the levy has risen \$41.00 or 84%.

Our four major complaints are:

1. The Fee policy is undemocratic.
2. The Fee should be "fee for service"
3. The CEO should bear the cost of fees we reduce or remit.
4. The CEO should be made to review their budgeting operations.

There is no doubt that the method of the determination of the fee is undemocratic. It appears that three principals have agreed on our behalf, to the fee rise. As we have no say in the decision it is natural we feel disenfranchised. We call on the CEO to meet with all School Boards (who, after all, have the responsibility to formulate their school budgets) to justify any proposed fee rise. The Boards should then have the power of veto over any proposed rise.

My Board does not feel we receive services to the extent we pay levies. In fact we use the CEO very sparingly. However we are made to subsidise those schools, which do use their services. We see that this is unjust and that we are being made to pay for services we do not use. In fact contrary to what we are told we believe that we are being made to subsidise the Catholic Primary School system.

Each year this college remits well over \$50,000 in school fees. We see, as part of our Catholic mission, that we should attempt to provide a Catholic education for those families who cannot pay full fees. We do distinguish between those who cannot and those who will not pay. This year we

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approved remissions or wrote off debts for in excess of 40 families. However we are still made to pay the CEO a levy of \$90 for each of those students. That means that we in fact lose money on each of those children. We believe that the CEO should absorb the same fees that we have to absorb. Surely, they should, as part of their Catholic mission, remit levies for those needy families who cannot afford to pay for a Catholic education. In fact they require us to show compassion to struggling families without showing the same compassion.

We believe that the CEO can, and should be made to, cut back on costs. Each year, we as school Boards, carefully review our budgets and cut back where we can. However it seems that costs at the CEO continue to rise at a rate well in excess of inflation. However if they find themselves short they seem to feel that they can simply raise the levy to schools to make up the shortfall.

Last year my principal Mr Chris Holt and myself expressed our dissatisfaction in regard to fees to the Director of the CEO personally. This has had no impact and the levy has once again been raised.

I sincerely ask you as the Chairman of your College Board to raise this matter with your Board and we call for your assistance in joining together and meeting the CEO on a joint basis to discuss the matters we have raised.

I can be contacted ... should you wish to discuss this matter personally.

Yours Faithfully

DANNY GOSS, Chairman, Marist Sion College Board of Management

*(Latter part of letter addressed to another college board chairman)*

In taking this opportunity to write to you I wish to raise a matter which has come to my attention.

Recently a letter circulated to yourself by a College Board Chair (from Mr. Danny Goss, Chair of the Marist Sion Board, dated 27 November 2002) was given to me. This correspondence called into question the work of many excellent people who contribute to the diocese either voluntarily on committees or as senior professional officers. I was particularly disappointed that the letter called into question, in a public way, the integrity of these good people. In addition, there was considerable inaccurate information in the letter.

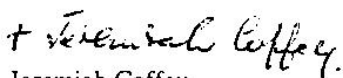
I wish to affirm the contribution of the priests, principals, senior professional officers and other generous members of the diocese who serve Catholic Education particularly on the Finance Committees and Diocesan Education Council. They work according to processes approved by myself and have my full confidence. As I said, I am disappointed that they have been treated in this way.

Please do not concern yourself with the contents of this letter.

Once again, let me express my sincere appreciation for all that you do for the College.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Jeremiah Coffey  
Bishop of Sale



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3 March 2003

COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION

Mr P O'Brien  
RMB 5165  
Gibson's Road  
SALE VIC 3850

Dear Mr O'Brien

You wrote to me in February in regard to Professor McLaughlin's address at the National Conference of the Association of Principals of Catholic Schools in October 2002. I have not seen the text of this address. You also suggested a questionnaire might be designed and sent to our teachers.

As you are aware, his Lordship Bishop Coffey has accepted the invitation of Pope John Paul II to engage in a pastoral planning process in the diocese. This has generated many challenges for all, including ourselves and our principals. We are working on a number of levels to try to come to grips with how we can best respond to the issues which have presented themselves. Consequently, there is no possibility of taking on further work such as you have suggested, at this stage.

You will appreciate that I am under obedience to Bishop Coffey my employer in the priorities I set.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Dr Therese D'Orsa  
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
DIOCESE OF SALE

*A Leading Light in Gippsland*

*150 Years of Catholic Education*

P. O'Brien, Sale

## What do Catholic Teachers Really Believe?

Alongside is the response I received from Dr D'Orsa regarding surveying beliefs of teachers in our diocese.

The conclusions I quoted from Professor McLaughlin's survey of student teachers at the Australian Catholic University were that "most students did not accept Church teaching on such areas as abortion, contraception, the Eucharist and women's ordination" and that "the vast majority of teachers" constituted a "parallel Church which largely disregarded the teachings of the institutional Catholic Church, the Vatican, the Magisterium" – their employer.

It is surprising then, that Dr D'Orsa does not express any concern about the beliefs of teachers under her jurisdiction in Catholic schools here. One would think that she would at least want to know what they believed. One wonders also how effective teachers would be in implementing *Journeying Together* if they did not adhere to Church teaching in the first place. Or is the "parallel Church" being nurtured in this diocese?

It is also surprising to see that the letter addressed to me is marked with a stamp "copy for your information."

## Respect and Obedience

Not so long ago, an Australian Bishop made a strong point about two major abuses that have crept into the Mass. Although many priests are aware of and will not tolerate these abuses, there are other good priests who seem to be unaware themselves and allow otherwise good Catholics to get into bad habits.

- The final doxology ("Through Him, with Him, in Him..."), common to all the Eucharistic prayers, are words to be said *only* by the ordained celebrant and con-celebrant. We should only join in the Great Amen.
- With the practice of giving Communion under both kinds, the Bishop made it clear that Our Lord's Body and Blood must be offered to the communicant by the priest or the Eucharistic minister. We are not allowed to 'help ourselves' to the Host or the Blood by 'dunking' the Host into the Chalice after receiving on the hand.

The *priest* may give Communion this way (intinction) on the tongue, but if the laity want to receive the precious Blood, which of course is not necessary, then they must *drink* from the offered Chalice.

If Rome has changed these rules we would like to know where it is written.

Concerned parishioners ("We are many!")  
Contact name and address supplied

## St Joseph ~ Husband and Father

March is St Joseph's month, with his feast on 19 March, and the first Wednesday in every month is dedicated to him. True devotion to St Joseph is part of true devotion to Our Lady. We find him in her Immaculate Heart.

No words of St Joseph are recorded in the Gospels, but he shows by his actions that he is holy, humble, pure, prudent, honourable, gentle, patient, tolerant and a just man whom  
~ God the Father chose to be the father-on-earth of His only begotten Son,  
~ God the Holy Spirit chose to be the husband of His Immaculate Spouse, Mary of Nazareth, and  
~ God the Son looked up to and loved and obeyed.

Various Popes have named St Joseph Patron of the Church, of the family, of the working man, of a happy death and of Vatican Council II.

He took care of the Child, he takes care of the Church – his intercession is all-powerful. When the Holy Family is given its rightful place in the Church there will be peace.

St Joseph teaches us how to attain a high degree of sanctity by performing well our ordinary duties in life. His virtues have been summed up as ordinary, obscure and laborious. St Therese says to “do ordinary things extraordinarily well.” Many Saints have had a great devotion to St Joseph. St Teresa says “he never lets you down and gives remarkable favours to his clients who ask with faith and humility.”

This story about St Joseph's ladder has a smile to it: ‘Certain complaints were being lodged in heaven because some souls, whom it was alleged had no business being there, had been allowed into heaven. St Joseph was accused: he had a ladder over the back wall and was getting his clients into heaven that way. St Peter told him it would have to stop or else St Joseph would have to go. “Very good,” St Joseph said in his serene way. “I'll go. But I'm taking my wife and child with me.” That was the end of that. All complaints against St Joseph ceased.’

Our vocation is to love, to be like St Joseph. We can find him when we pray the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. He is present in all of them. In the background. We honour St Joseph best in the Holy Mass.

J. Turner, Sale

## Twisting Words

Reports from a recent Journeying Together meeting is that the buzz-word is *change*. It seems to be the most commonly used word – and yet it never refers to us – always to the Church.

Journeying Together claims to be based, at least in part, on Pope John Paul II's letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. One wonders if they read the part where our Holy Father states (para.29):

*“It is not therefore a matter of inventing a ‘new programme’. The programme already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition, it is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfilment in the heavenly Jerusalem. This is a programme which does not change with shifts of times and cultures, even though it takes account of time and culture for the sake of true dialogue and effective communication. This programme for all times is our programme for the Third Millennium.”*

## The Gospels are factual

A commentary in my parish bulletin on 25<sup>th</sup> January, by a Dr Mary Coloe PBVM gives a “further reminder” that “the Gospels are theological reflections on the meaning of Jesus' life, rather than biographies or histories.”

I disagree. While I have no theological degrees or letters behind my name, my Catechism [126] tells me that “The Church holds firmly that the four Gospels...faithfully hand on what Jesus, the Son of God, while he lived among men, really did and taught.”

And *Novo Millennio Ineunte* adds [17] “What we receive from them (the apostles) is a vision of faith based on precise historical testimony: a true testimony which the Gospels, despite their complex redaction and primarily catechetical purpose, pass on to us in an entirely trustworthy way.”

Why do we have ‘experts’ giving us their own opinions instead of teaching us what the Church teaches? We should be able to trust what we read from those in the Church.

M. Tudor, Moe

## Amen?

From the Hebrew

## Certainly!

**Q.** Are all religions equal?

**A.** The world's religions are not interchangeable, equivalent or even complementary, Pope John Paul II said during the conclusion of a plenary session of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in January this year.

The Pontiff mentioned that "in some ecclesial environments, a mentality has arisen over the last few years that tends to relativise Christ's revelation and his unique and universal mediation with regard to salvation.

He noted that the Church had been founded by Christ himself "as a salvific reality, as His Body, through which He acts in the history of salvation.

For this reason, it is an error to consider the Church as one more road to salvation together with that of other religions, which would be complementary to the Church," the Pope stressed.

## The Secret of Peace

John Paul II asked all Catholics worldwide to pray the rosary ~ a "privileged instrument for building peace."

"War and injustice have their origins in the 'divided' heart," he writes.

"Anyone who assimilates the mystery of Christ ~ and this is clearly the goal of the rosary ~ learns the secret of peace and makes it his life's project."

"With Mary, we can obtain everything from her Son Jesus," the message says. "Supported by Mary, we will not hesitate to devote ourselves generously to taking the proclamation of the Good News to the ends of the earth."

Zenit news

*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!

John Paul II

## Letters to the Editor

Readers are welcome to contribute letters or articles. We cannot guarantee that all will be published, and some will be edited due to space.

Please keep letters factual, and report only first-hand information. It will be easy to slip into bitterness or gossip, which we need to avoid.

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 a reasonable request, anonymity will be preserved when publishing.

## Contact Us

E-mail [stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stoneswillshout@yahoo.com.au)

Or mail to Mr Pat O'Brien, RMB 5165 Gibson's Road, Sale 3850.

Please notify by e-mail if you would like to be added to the regular e-mailing list.

## Into the Deep

The purpose of *Into the Deep* 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.