

Women of the Archdiocese working together

ONE of many future initiatives aimed at supporting Catholic women across the Archdiocese will take place later this month.

A half-day retreat will be held at the Randwick Spirituality Centre on Friday November 22 from 10am-1pm followed by lunch, for all Catholic women in Sydney.

The retreat will include time for prayer and meditation, morning Mass, and spiritual direction. Present at the retreat will be members of Regnum Christi, a lay and religious movement dedicated to spreading Christ's message to humanity through personal, organized apostolic activity.

With our Archdiocesan offices, parishes and numerous Catholic groups spread across the city and suburbs, the retreat offers a great opportunity to meet many of the other women in the Church.

"This is a diocesan initiative in light of the Bishops' Commission for Australian

Catholic Women to acknowledge the work of women within the Church, to facilitate meeting, support and friendship among ourselves," said Marita Franklin, from Catholic Communications.

The cost of the day is \$10 by donation, including morning tea and lunch.

The Catholic Women's League, other women's groups, and women from various agencies have come together on a couple of occasions to discuss ways to implement the proposals put forward by the *Women and Man, One in Christ Jesus* report. It was this report that led to the establishment of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women.

Sydney Snapshot aims to facilitate regular updates to keep women updated on what's going on and how to get involved.

Further information on the luncheon and the retreat can be obtained from Helen Ransom at Catholic Communications, 9518-9101.

Archbishop Pell Exonerated...

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Archbishop Pell who has been exonerated by the recent Southwell Inquiry.

The Archbishop has resumed his duties at St Mary's Cathedral, and staff and parishioners across Sydney are delighted to have him back. Many thanks to Bishop Cremin for attending to the day-to-day running of the Archdiocese over the past few months.

Pre Christmas Bookshop Sale:
15% of regular stock

The Mustard Seed Bookshop

Christmas Gifts and Resources for 2003

Books, tapes, CDs, Cards and more

Saturday Nov 23
 9am – 2pm

The Catholic Centre
 3 Keating St Lidcombe

Biography: George Pell

By Tess Livingstone



ARCHBISHOP Pell's biography, *George Pell*, was launched in Sydney on Oct 29 by Dr Peter Jensen, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney.

Written by the Brisbane *Courier Mail's* Opinions Editor, Tess Livingstone, George Pell is the first full account of the life of the Archbishop. The forward is written by George Weigel, Pope John Paul II's official biographer.

It is available from all good bookstores for \$22.

Welcome

THE November edition of *Sydney Snapshot* welcomes back Archbishop Pell and features a brief introduction to the new biography, *George Pell*, which has just been released. There are also a number of reminders of events to mark in your diary for the month of November.

If your agency has any upcoming events or stories of interest that could be published in 'Sydney Snapshots', please send details to Helen Ransom at cpmedia@sydney.catholic.org.au, phone (02) 9518-9101, or fax (02) 9518-7705. *Please note that the editorial deadline is the last week of each month

Marriage Enrichment

"A marriage made in heaven is a hell of a lot of hard work"

Adele Horin (SMH 14/8/02)

Marriage and family life play an enormous and important role in the functioning of society, but with increasing numbers of couples heading for the divorce courts, educators are realising that couples need ongoing support — not just before they marry or when things start to get rough.

In 2001, over 55,000 divorces were granted in Australia alone — the highest ever — while marriages dropped from 113,905 in 1981 to just 103,100.

However, new research from the University of Chicago has shown that 'sticking out' a tough marriage until things improve actually gives people a greater chance at a contented life.

The study followed 645 married adults who described themselves as 'unhappily married'. Five years later, 167 of the unhappy spouses were either divorced or separated, and just one third were happy. Of those who weathered the difficult phases of their marriage, two thirds were happy.

According to Centacare's Br Michael Dyer, while there are numerous and effective programs for pre marriage education, precious few initiatives exist to support men and women during marriage.

"In fact, current research highlights the need in particular, to support couples in the vital first five years of their married lives," Br Michael said.

"It is during this time that crises often surface. By assisting couples early to negotiate these crises, the foundations for a long and successful marriage are laid."

Br Michael recently met with Centacare personnel throughout Australia and all agree that there is a burning need to offer practical support to newly wed couples. Sadly, such programmes are not readily available, often due to funding restrictions.

Centacare Sydney has committed its resources to meet this challenge by making young married couples a priority in 2003. A weekend retreat is being held this month to assist couples to enrich their marriages and consider practical strategies to make their relationships stronger, with guidance from Centacare's experienced marriage educators.

The retreat is being held November 16-17 at Mulgoa. Cost is \$250 per couple including meals, accommodation, and resource materials. For further information, contact Toni Landrey on 9660-2044 or toni.landrey@centacare.org

We have never so much cause for consolation, as when we find ourselves oppressed by sufferings and trials; for these make us like Christ our Lord, and this resemblance is the true mark of our predestination.

Saint Vincent de Paul

New Building Update

A SPECIAL newsletter providing general information and answering your questions about the new Church Office building at 133 Liverpool St will be sent to all staff in mid-November. In the meantime, enquiries can be directed to Chris McBride at Chancery on 9390-5790.

New Rosary Document

POPE John Paul II has just released an Apostolic Letter on the *Rosary, Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. To view the English translation, visit:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20021016_rosarium-virginis-mariae_en.html

Polding House – Closed over Christmas Break

A REMINDER that Polding House will be closed from December 24th to January 6th, for the Christmas break.

3rd CWF Appeal 3rd November

THE final CWF Appeal for this year takes place Sunday November 3rd at local parishes across Sydney. Please give generously and support the vital work of Church agencies, which assist more than 500,000 people each year.

Christmas Masquerade Ball

CATHOLIC Adult Education's young adult network is helping to organise a Christmas Masquerade Ball on December 14, to raise funds to support the various initiatives for the next generation of Catholics.

Proceeds of the Ball will go to *Yucan*, an independent association of young Catholic adults, which sponsor some of the young adult programs throughout the Archdiocese – including workshops, seminars and retreats in spiritual growth, personal development, and social justice.

Date: Sat Dec 14

Time: 7pm till midnight

Venue: The Squarehouse, UNSW, Anzac Pde Kensington

Dress: Evening and Mask

Cost \$70 includes buffet, pre-dinner drinks, DJ music, raffle and prize

Enquiries: Margaret 9643-3677 or Catherine 0415-737-322

In other news from the Catholic Adult Education, the weekly Catechism series continue to run and are proving increasingly popular.

The upcoming classes looking at the Sacraments are: Baptism and Confirmation (1 Nov), The Eucharist (6,8 Nov), Penance and Anointing of the Sick (13,15 Nov), Holy Orders (20,22 Nov), and Matrimony (27,30 Nov).

For further information, contact the Centre on 9643-3660.

Christmas Preparation

ADVENT is an important part of the Church's calendar, when we ready ourselves for the upcoming celebration of the birth of Christ.

The *Preparing for Christmas* program for Advent 2002 is now available for use for parish and prayer groups, families and individuals. The Scripture-based program offers an opportunity to explore, reflect upon, celebrate and

share our faith during the season of Advent. It covers the four weeks leading up to Christmas for Year B and begins with the week prior to the first Sunday of Advent.

The program is available from Catholic Adult Education for \$1.20 per copy, with a minimum of 5 copies. Phone 9643-3660 or email info@caec.com.au



Feast Days

All Saints	Nov 1
All Souls	Nov 2
Pope St Leo the Great	Nov 10
St Elizabeth of Hungary	Nov 17
Presentation of Mary	Nov 21
St Andrew the Apostle	Nov 30