

SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

life office

Respect Life Sunday

Catholics are called to be both Pro-woman and Pro-life; to unite genuine concern for pregnant women with the protection of the unborn.

This is the message for Respect Life Sunday 2005, which will be celebrated by the Archdiocese of Sydney on the 2nd of October 2005.

Respect Life Sunday is celebrated on the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Archdiocese in response to John Paul II's proposal that a Day for Life be celebrated by the Church to promote the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition (The Gospel of Life 84, 5).

To promote and facilitate this day, the Life Office publishes and distributes resource material to parishes within the Archdiocese. This year the material encourages us to reflect upon the human tragedy of abortion and ways in which we can offer love and practical support to women who are pregnant in difficult circumstances.

The poster and brochure take up these words of Pope John Paul II in his reflection upon abortion in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*:

"It is necessary to become courageously 'pro-woman,' promoting a choice that is truly in favour of women. It is precisely the woman ... who pays the highest price, not only for motherhood but even more for its destruction, for the suppression of the life of the child who has been conceived. The only honest stance, in these cases, is that of radical solidarity with the woman. It is not right to leave her alone."

Respect Life Sunday 2005 also marks the official launch of Project Lisa. This is the Centacare Pregnancy Counselling and Support Service's new volunteer program. Although this Service has only been operating since January 2005, its work has already expanded to the point that volunteers are required to assist the service to provide support and assistance to pregnant women.

Becoming involved with Project Lisa is a great opportunity for Catholics to stand in radical solidarity with pregnant women and give witness to our reverence and love of human life. Centacare will provide Project Lisa volunteers with support, education, training and professional supervision and interested parishioners are invited to attend an Expression Of Interest Evening on Tuesday 22 November 2005 at Centacare Bankstown, starting at 7pm.

Electronic versions of this year's Respect Life Sunday material can be found on the Life Office website: www.lifeoffice.org.au Hard copies of the pamphlet can be obtained by calling the Life Office on 9390 5283. Further information about Project Lisa can be obtained by ringing Julie Densley on 9793 7522.



Welcome to October Sydney Snapshot

We are delighted to bring you a full 4-page Snapshots this month with many contributions from agencies. It is great that people see this as a vehicle for sharing what is happening in their agency.

We have Respect Life Sunday and the launch of Project Lisa, OER travelling to the International Congress on the New Evangelisation and seeking interested participants, as well as new subjects at Catholic Adult Education Centre. CYS are recruiting for 2006 so if you know any young people interested in a year of mission, please pass on the details. And St Mary's Cathedral is celebrating Marriage Sunday while the whole Church celebrates World Mission Month.

With The Catholic Weekly having started the countdown to Christmas, we wish you happy reading!

oer

An Important Announcement

A rare opportunity to learn share and experience the new Evangelisation! Call for expressions of interest to join a remarkable journey to the startlingly beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal to attend the 2005 International Congress for the New Evangelisation: 1st -13th November, 2005.

This is the perfect opportunity to experience works of evangelisation and learn more from keynote speakers in a European setting. The Sydney Archdiocese's Office of Evangelisation and Renewal will be organising the trip, which will include a preparatory retreat at Paray-le-Monial, France, where the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were revealed to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. Participants at the Congress will also travel to Fatima.

To register your interest in receiving more information, phone the Office of Evangelisation and Renewal immediately on tel: 9752 9686 or email elizabeth.peoples@oer.org.au Last chance to join us, so call now!

Deadline for material for the November edition is 12 noon, Thursday 27 October.
Please email media@sydney.catholic.org.au or call 9390 5300.

ccd

Whats happening at CCD

October is a very busy month for CCD Sydney with a diversity of events being conducted which are aimed at the professional development and spiritual formation of its catechists.

Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering
Friday October 14, 2005
From 10:30am to 1:30pm
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe

Topics

Child Protection: Ms Anna Ross
Christ Our Light and Life: Mr Anthony Cleary
Biblical Storytelling: Br Julian Quinlan
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Mrs Angela Hague

All catechists are invited to attend a Spirituality Day to be held at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd on Saturday 22nd October between 9am – 1pm. This reflection/retreat day will be facilitated by an international guest speaker Fr John Bullock LC. The day will include mass, Eucharistic Adoration, personal testimonies inspiring talks and presentations. The theme for the day is Christ Our Life. Interested catechists should contact Sonia on 9390 5122 or email her at sonia@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au.

CCD Sydney is very pleased to announce that it will be coordinating professional development in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The training, which will be facilitated by Anne Delsorte from Brisbane, offers a rich personal formation for each catechist. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an international work with a very rich history (1954), however it first began in Australia in 1995. "The catechesis is based on the belief that God and the child are in relationship. There is a deep bond between them that produces in the child a desire to draw near to God. The task of the catechist is to prepare the environment and make the presentations that call forth a response – to help the child live fully the encounter with God." This catechetical approach has had phenomenal success, both nationally and internationally. For this reason CCD would like catechists to have the opportunity become familiar with the approach, an approach which caters for children from a diversity of social and cultural backgrounds.

The upcoming training will take place at St Michael's Lane Cove during the week Monday 24 to Friday 29 October between 9:00am – 5:30pm each day. This course is the first of six parts in the overall training. Although this might seem arduous, the benefits and insights are innumerable. This course is free for all catechists as the CCD will meet all costs incurred. Any catechist interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training should contact Anthony Cleary on 9390 5127 no later than Friday 14 October.



Feast Days



October

- 1 Teresa of the Child Jesus
- 4 Francis of Assisi
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- 15 Teresa of Jesus
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch
- 18 Luke
- 28 Simon & Jude

caec

CAEC Announces Term Four Subjects

The Catholic Adult Education Centre has announced three new subjects among the five to be given in Term Four. The new term begins on Monday evening, the 10th October, with Christian Prayer. Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this subject will cover the fundamentals of Christian prayer, different forms of prayer including liturgical prayer, prayerful leadership and developing a rhythm of prayer in one's life. It will be given by Anthony English.

Also on Monday evenings is Getting More from the Mass. This new subject, to be given by Fr Flader, Director of the Centre, will explore the precursors of the Mass in the Old Testament, the Mass of the early Christians and the theology of the Mass, before entering into a detailed examination of each of the parts of the Mass.

On Thursday evenings Fr Anthony Robbie, Church historian, will give The Reformation, also a new subject. The subject aims to educate participants in how Protestantism developed and grew, its main points of disagreement with Catholic teaching and its major varieties.

Also on Thursdays Peter Holmes, Manager – Courses of Study at the Centre, will give St Paul and his letters. This new subject will take a detailed look at the teachings of St Paul, show-

ing how these teachings helped to convert the ancient world. The subject will offer insights on what can be done to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in today's world.

On Tuesday mornings, Peter Holmes will give The Old Testament, a unit which looks at how God prepared the pre-Christian world to look for and receive his Son. The subject will give an overview of the different types of writing in the Old Testament.

The courses are all held at the Catholic Centre at Lidcombe, and are also available by correspondence.

Students may select any individual units of interest, or enrol in a Certificate in Faith Education, usually done over two years, or a Certificate in Youth Ministry. The Certificate in Faith Education is accredited by the Sydney Catholic Education Office for the teaching of Religious Education in Catholic schools and by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for Catechists in state schools.

The term runs for eight successive weeks. There are four classes on Monday and Thursday evenings and two on Tuesday mornings.

For more information please phone the Centre on 9643 3660 or visit our web site at www.caec.com.au

accer

The Church Considers the Governments Proposed Workplace Reforms

Australia is now engaged in a discussion about employment law and industrial relations that is important to each and every one of us, to our families and to the future of our country. The discussion has arisen from the Commonwealth Government's recently announced proposals to reform workplace relations. The Catholic Church has a responsibility to be part of this important discussion.

The Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (ACCER), an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has examined the Government's proposed changes within the context of this body of Catholic Social Teaching and the Church's collective and diverse experience as an employer.

Catholic teaching on the spiritual, economic and social aspects of work in modern industrial societies has its genesis in Pope Leo XII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. One hundred years later, Pope John Paul II reflected on the same issues in a contemporary setting in his encyclicals *Centesimus Annus* and *Laborem Exercens*.

ACCER has prepared an initial briefing paper on the proposals as they have been explained so far in order to assist

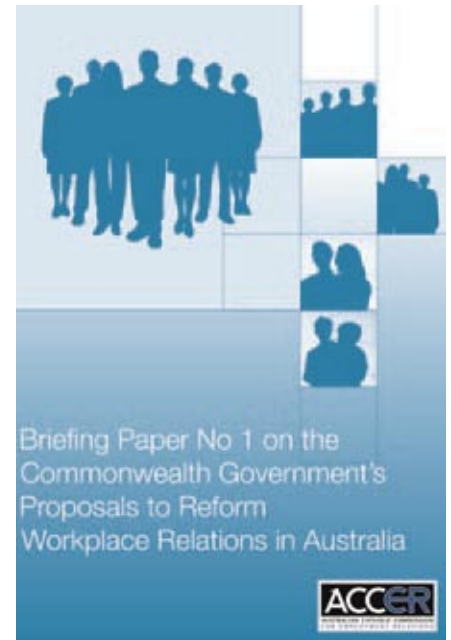
the Church in its consideration of these matters and to contribute to the public discussion. A final assessment of the proposed changes must await the tabling of the legislation in the Parliament and the undertaking of further consultation, at which stage a further briefing paper will be prepared by ACCER.

On the basis of the current information provided by the Government, there are concerns about various aspects of its proposals: wage fixing, unfair dismissals, minimum conditions, awards and agreement making, and the functions of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. In particular, the focus on the Government's current proposals to change the wage fixing system by introducing a minimum wage fixed by reference to the single adult employee; abolishing unfair dismissal rights for employees of corporations employing 100 or less employees; and change the no-disadvantage test that is applied to the making of collective and individual agreements.

Part of the Government's proposals is the introduction of a national workplace relations system. ACCER is open to this kind of system provided that it is supportive of the essential values and

principles necessary for cooperative employment relations.

The ACCER Briefing Paper (No 1) is available at www.ccer.catholic.org.au/contact/SeptemberIRBriefingPaper-ACCER.htm



cys

CYS News

NOW RECRUITING FOR THE CYS 2006 MISSION TEAM

Being on the team is an awesome way to share your faith with loads of young people and to have heaps of fun at the same time. If you're interested contact CYS on 9665 5344 or check the website www.cyshouse.org.au.

JOSEPHITE COMMUNITY AID SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

JCA are a group of young people who work with the Sisters of St Joseph to provide friendship and support to newly arrived refugees in Sydney. Work includes visiting them in their homes, teaching English and taking families away for weekends. Casual, part-time and full-time volunteers are required. Some volunteers choose to live in a community with other JCA volunteers. For more information, call Caroline Clark on 9799 6990 or visit www.jcaid.com

NOW IS THE TIME! CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG MEN - OCTOBER 8-9

With special guest speakers and talks about Sexuality, Healing the Inner Man, The Battle for Manhood and many more. Be empowered and learn to take hold of your faith and be courageous before the challenges of living as a young man in the world today. Venue: All Saints Parish Hall, George St. Liverpool, Sydney. Contact Ben O'Heir 0410 403 763 or Alex Nolasco 02 6281 0132 or email nowisthetime_05@hotmail.com

FIRE WEEKEND "ALL THINGS ARE MADE NEW" October 28-30

What is it all about? Do you want to experience the New Life that Jesus has promised us? To be empowered to live and share the Gospel in a radical way? Do you want to know Jesus more intimately through vibrant praise and worship, drama, prayer, personal sharing and testimonies? The Disciples of

Jesus are running a Fire Weekend entitled 'All things are made NEW'. For young adults (18+) and the young at heart Venue: "THE VENUE" 16 Cawley St Bellambi, Wollongong. Cost: \$95.00 Registration begins at 7pm on Friday 28 October and the weekend runs until 2pm Sunday 30 October. For more information contact Roza (0437 492 590) or Will (0401 803 023) or email fireweekend@hotmail.com

CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICES HOSTS SALT & LIGHT @ EARLWOOD - OCTOBER 14. IF YOU WANT FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT CYS ON 02 9665 5344.

st mary's

St Mary's Celebrates Marriage Sunday

St. Mary's Cathedral has been the place of many marriages. During the years of World War II the archives revealed that over 300 marriages were celebrated in one year.

Most marriages took place at the main altar, and for many inter-faith marriages, a favoured place was the Cardinal's sacristy - a beautifully crafted Gothic chapel. Most recently, the exquisite Crypt has been open to couples wishing to marry at St. Mary's.

On Marriage Sunday on the 9th of October all those who have celebrated their marriage at the Cathedral are invited to return to St. Mary's to join the local community at the 10.30am Mass. Children and grandchildren of couples married at St. Mary's are also invited to attend this unique celebration, followed by morning tea.

Marriage Sunday has also proven to be a great opportunity to remember earlier generations who were married at St. Mary's.

Should this celebration interest you and if you wish to come to morning tea, please contact Paula at the Cathedral office on 9220 0403.



World Mission Month 2005

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

(Jn 10:10b).

Proclamation – Witness, Liberate, Teach and Celebrate

When Jesus proclaimed 'Life for All' he did so through his life and actions. We too as Church, are charged with the unfinished mission of Jesus to proclaim through witnessing, teaching, liberating and celebrating life.

Witnessing to Life

By the witness of an authentic Christian life, recognising God in all and everyone,
by witnessing the love of God for all, especially the lowly and poor,
by radiating in a simple and unaffected way faith and values that go beyond current values and hope in something not seen,
by a lifestyle of simplicity and detachment and of freedom in the face of the powers of this world.

Liberating Life

By liberating others who suffer,
by healing hearts and lives through actions taken on behalf of the imprisoned, powerless and voiceless,
by working in solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good in the struggle to overcome all that condemns people to remain on the margins of life.

Teaching the truth about Life

By investigating and discovering truth and passing it on,
by sharing on a person-to-person basis our personal experience of faith,
by handing on the Gospel to reach out and touch another's conscience with a unique word,
by denouncing injustice and promoting human dignity and human rights.

Celebrating Life

By recognising the life of each person as a divine blessing from God,
by appreciating our differences as gifts and celebrating our lives as the most precious of all,
by celebrating the 'sacrament of life' and especially the Eucharist, the life force of all Christian communities.

The highlight of World Mission Month is the international celebration of World Mission Sunday on 23 October followed by a week of special events, 23–28 October. World Mission Day, a global event, is celebrated all around the world in every Catholic community, rich and poor, east and west, north and south.

World Mission Month culminates our work of children first! in which we have been examining how nutrition, education and healthcare are basic human rights and prerequisites for all people to live a full life. These are critical issues for our sisters and brothers in the majority world (Pacific, Africa, Asia and Latin America).

World Mission Month is a time to devote extra attention to how we as a Christian community participate in our Creator God's plan for all members of our global human family to live life fully. This year in particular we focus on one very vulnerable and marginalised group in our midst - refugees and asylum seekers, and ask are we being Christian?

Proclaim Life for All on World Mission Day 2005

The theme for this year's World Mission Day on Sunday, October 23, is 'Proclaim

Life for All ... Witness, Liberate, Teach and Celebrate'.

World Mission Day is celebrated in every Catholic community around the world. Catholic Mission is the primary and privileged organisation of the Church for promoting mission around the world. Our vision is for a world where all people can live life fully, as the dream of our Creator God intended.

Catholic Mission National Director Father Terry Bell said that in the Year of the Eucharist we are all called to the struggle of liberation for humanity.

"We who have received the gift of the Eucharist and the fullness of life it brings can't keep this to ourselves; it is our privilege to share this with all we encounter," Father Terry said. "At the end of Mass, all should feel they are sent as 'missionaries of the Eucharist' to carry to every person the great gift received, that is life to the full in Jesus Christ. That is our challenge today."

There are many ways you can get involved in the celebration of World Mission Day. One of the simplest is to wear a 'Life for All' sticker on Children's Mission Day, Wednesday October 26. This action will involve schools, parish-

es and the wider community. The aim is to display 'people power' for life, affirm the sanctity of life and to inspire others.

Catholic Mission has produced extensive school and parish study kits to assist in fundraising, educating and animating about the work of mission.

As Pope John Paul II noted in his 2005 message for this special day: "World Mission Sunday is an opportune occasion to increase our awareness of the urgent necessity to participate in the evangelising mission by local communities and many Church organisations, in particular Catholic Mission."

Catholic Mission is encouraging all people to take action this World Mission Day. We can 'Witness' by wearing a Life for All sticker or a Make Poverty History armband; 'Teach' by being involved in Catholic Mission's 'Proclaim Life for All; adult education; 'Liberate' by sharing our resources through Catholic Mission's World Mission Day Appeal and 'Celebrate' by using Mass for the spread of the Gospel.

For more information phone Catholic Mission Sydney on 9390 5430 – or internally ext 434 (Peter) or 435 (Karen) or go to www.catholicmission.org.au