Australia celebrates its first canonised saint
Mary MacKillop

Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Newsletter
Dear Catechists,

2009 was a year of significant change and redevelopment in the CCD. As you are aware through my previous messages, work was begun in the following areas:

- Redeveloping the K-6 curriculum
- Beginning a new Year 7-12 curriculum
- Preparing ‘modules’ for use in Years 7-12
- Initiating the High School Catechist Project
- Recruiting more catechists from a diversity of ages and cultures
- Forming teams to present seminars in secondary schools
- Re-entering new and additional high schools
- Implementing changes to Area Boundaries
- Improving the presentation of the CCD Newsletter

Significant progress was made in most of the above, and I wish to thank both members of my staff and many individual catechists for your support.

2010 will prove to be a year of consolidation: new curriculum material will be developed for Years 3, 4, 7, 8; the High School Catechist Project will expand from four to 14 schools; catechists will be teaching SRE in an additional eight high schools; at least four seminar teams will be formed to teach in those high schools that allow SRE only on a once-a-term basis. Our CCD website will be updated to be a more effective vehicle of information for catechists.

In all our work of updating and revision, the CCD welcomes and requires your feedback. Your input is more than important; it is crucial, both to ensure that we continue to support you in your needs and to provide relevant and effective training and appropriate resources K-12.

This year’s catechist recruitment drive will be under the slogan: “Your Faith – Don’t Keep it to Yourself.” We encourage all parishes to maintain their usual efforts to recruit new blood into the ranks of catechists and remind you that I (as Director) and all FEOs are always available to assist you towards this end.

I wish to welcome you all back for 2010 and pray that God may bless your wonderful work in schools during the next 12 months.

Robert Haddad
**From the Faith Education Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EASTERN</strong></th>
<th><strong>NORTHERN</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Philomena Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are well into Term 1 of a new year and I hope all catechists have adjusted to the new look Year K to 2. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all new catechists, assistant catechists and helpers who have joined the parishes of the Eastern Area – please feel free to call me at the Polding Centre for any assistance that you may require during your service with the CCD.

I am pleased that a significant number of new catechists have attended both the Orientation | Child Protection Inservices as well as the Basic Accreditation Course, and would like to thank the coordinators for encouraging their attendance. Commencing a new school year with the Basic course is always advantageous in acquiring new skills, classroom management techniques and good habits. Keep in mind that your first couple of classes should focus on rapport and establishing/reminding students of classroom rules such as ‘Raise hand to speak’ or ‘keep hands to yourself.’ Further, give students practical and reasonable consequences which are aligned with school policy and procedure e.g. ‘name on board’ or ‘time out chair.’ All these practices work if they are consistently followed through.

I’d also like to thank the parishes of Randwick, Daceyville, Mascot and Erskineville for inviting me to attend their recruitment drives over the past few weekends. We have had some relative successes through these drives and I am happy to participate in further drives at other parishes should you require them. On that point I am holding a Recruiting and Retaining Workshop on 11 March in the Polding Centre from 10am-2pm. To register please contact Mimi Rivera on (02) 9390 5122, this is essential as there are limited spaces.

The Eastern Area Mass for 2010 is scheduled for Monday 31 May at St Patrick’s Bondi at 11am. Wishing you all a Happy Easter and fulfilment in the risen Lord.

Robert

Tel: 9390 5122  
Fax: 9283 5146  
robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Greetings to all Catechists in the Northern Area.

The new formation of the Northern Area brings new parishes to the old Concord Region. Welcome Auburn, Auburn South, Berala and Lidcombe!

Term 1 has provided me with the opportunity to train senior Catholic high school students to be student catechists; Several schools within the region have displayed interest in the program with the selection and training of student catechists progressing. These students will now continue to go and work as catechists in local public schools. I ask you to pray for these students, that they will receive many graces and blessings as they work as catechists in the Northern Area.

I have also had the opportunity to teach the Catechist Ministry Course on Theology of the Body twice with the Missionaries of Charity in Surry Hills and with catechists at Smithfield. The Theology of the Body is the expression used to describe the teaching of Pope John Paul II about the human person and human sexuality. It helped us as catechists understand these rich teachings which are becoming increasingly relevant to the society in which we live.

This term I will be teaching the Intermediate Accreditation course which provides an opportunity to immerse catechists in new information which will assist them with classroom practice. It also provides an opportunity to explore aspects of our faith which are beneficial for our journey in coming to know, worship and love God through teaching others. The Intermediate course will be held at Holy Spirit Parish North Ryde on Mondays - 10am to 2pm starting on 10 May.

The Northern Area Catechist Mass will be held this year at St Charles Borromeo Ryde on Friday 21 May at 11.30am. All catechists are welcome to attend.

I am available to conduct Child Protection workshops or assist in recruitment. Please don’t hesitate to call or email me if you require any assistance.

God bless.

Philomena

Tel: 9390 5122  
Fax: 9283 5146  
philomena@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
## From the Faith Education Officers

### Southern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denise Humphreys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to all catechists who are working in the Southern Area in 2010. I hope to meet many of you at our Resource Days, Area Mass, Catechist Gatherings and Accreditation Courses. It is essential that all catechists attend an in-service on the Child Protection and privacy guidelines before they go into the classroom. All of these activities are advertised in the catechist newsletter – this newsletter comes out each term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Basic and Intermediate Accreditation Courses are designed to help you prepare and teach your SRE lessons. You will also be shown strategies to manage the students in your class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here are a few survival tips for the first few lessons:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Learn the student names – use name tags, seating arrangements, class roll,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Set the class rules – keep rules few and simple. Check out the school rules. Most primary schools display these in the class room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Try the five ‘L’s” with infant classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Look at the teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lips still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Legs crossed (when students sit on the floor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hands on lap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ears listen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This year Special Religious Education (SRE) classes started one or two weeks before Lent began and soon you will be preparing Holy Week and Easter lessons. Christ our Light and Life curriculum has Lent and Holy Week lessons within the first eight lessons. On Friday 19 March Br Julian Quinlan will hold a Preparing for Easter workshop at Miranda CCD Centre. This workshop is open to all catechists – details are on page 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or e-mail if you need help.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Central

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sarah Ayoub</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greetings to all catechists and parish coordinators in the Central area. I hope you are all well and enjoying the promises of a fresh start to the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As most of you know, the CCD has put into effect a change in area boundaries, so I'd like to welcome the parishes of Ashbury, Ashfield, Lewisham, Campsie, Dulwich Hill and Summer Hill to our area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As we move forward in the year, I look forward to strengthening our skills as catechists through Accreditation Courses and Child Protection Inservices, and enhancing our working relationship for better service of Christ, a service which brings light to the lives of many. This was something I personally saw with the catechists of Padstow, who received an effortful and beautifully crafted letter of appreciation from staff at Padstow Park Public School thanking them for their work because they were “planting a seed into young minds that one day may see them make a life-changing decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am now finishing up the Basic Course, and over the coming second term, I will be conducting Intermediate Accreditation Courses at St Felix in Bankstown, every Monday from the 26 April to the 31 May, from 10am to 2pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For those who have completed their Accreditation Courses and are looking for something on a new and alternative level, I will be holding a CMC Course on Controversies in Church History at the Polding Centre. The course will run from 9:30 am to 3:30pm on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 April. I’d also like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the Area Mass which will be held at St Joseph's Enfield at 11am on Wednesday 26 May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As we move into Easter time, let us continue to spread the message of the Lord through our catechetical instruction, and remind ourselves of the great love and sacrifice that our faith is all about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God Bless,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Tel: 9524 6400
Fax: 9524 6400
denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
sarah.ayoub@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Greetings to all in the Western Area!

I hope you’ve enjoyed your summer break and are refreshed and renewed, ready for all the Beloved has to offer you in 2010.

We have had some terrific news this year – SRE has commenced at Bossley Park High School with four new catechists. Our prayers are with you as you begin this journey of catechesis.

For all new catechists and those who have yet to do the Basic Accreditation Course (BAC), I encourage you to join us this year in Term 2 starting on Monday 10 May (see page 8). These courses are beneficial for all who serve as catechists. If you would be interested in an evening BAC, my contact details are below.

Men and women are invited to our next “Mary and Joseph Day” on Marriage (see page 6).

Hello from the admin and bookshop staff - hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year holiday break.

The ordering process by parishes of Christ Our Light and Life resources during the past two months has, as usual, been very hectic. For Sydney parishes hope you enjoyed receiving surplus supplies of World Youth day resources to share with your catechists and students.

Thank you to all involved for your cooperation and patience during the delivery process. Please accept our apologies for any discrepancies. The packaging of all orders, during the hot summer days at our warehouse, is carried out by admin staff which allows the overall cost of the program to be kept affordable. A small profit is made on the sale of the activity books (to recoup the high capital development costs). The teacher manuals are sold at cost price as a service to catechists.

Thank you also to all involved for ensuring prompt payment of orders. However, just a small request when processing payments by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) please advise this office by email or fax and include your account ID number, located bottom left hand side of invoice. This helps to easily identify and reconcile the originator of the funds.

Quite a lot of parishes continually request top up orders, which, in the end, adds to the total cost as a result of additional courier/postage charges. In future for 3rd Edition books only, it may be beneficial to slightly over order as we do not propose to revise the program again for some time to come (apart from minor amendments). This will save you on delivery and labour costs over time.

Many thanks again for all your generous support and assistance.
Mary and Joseph Day

We extend an invitation to all men and women catechists in the Archdiocese of Sydney to attend our quarterly retreat “Mary Day” which for Term 2 we have named “Mary and Joseph Day” at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.

This term, we are blessed to have a couple from the Neo-Catechumenal Way to present:

Marriage: the role of man and woman

Venue: Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa
Date: Friday 18 June 2010
Time: 10am – 2pm.
Morning Tea available at 9:45am.
Pls bring: A Bible, pen and paper and a plate to share for lunch.
Mass and Confession will be available.
RSVP Essential: CCD on 9390 5122

LUNCH & LEARN

“Lunch and Learn” is an exciting new initiative to help catechists grow together in their Catholic Faith. It will be held on a Friday, once a month at St Gertrude’s Parish, 8 Justin Street, Smithfield.

The first Lunch and Learn is on 23 April 2010
9:15am   Mass
9:45 -10:30am  Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11:00am  Tarots, Fortune Tellers, Mediums
Fr Terrence Mary Naughtin OFM Conv.
12:30-2:00pm    Lunch (Please bring a plate to share)

You are welcome to attend all or part of the program.
RSVP Essential: CCD on 9390 5122

Future Lunch & Learn sessions include:
☆ Friday 14 May 2010
Gay Marriage: Why not?
By Bernard Toutounji
(Family, Marriage and Life Office)
☆ Friday 4 June 2010
Islam
By Fr Paul Stenhouse MSC

Dear Robert,

I am replying to your letter of 11 February 2010 about changes to scripture timetables.

In late 2009, information was supplied to principals in our weekly publication InPrincipal reminding them to consult with providers of Special Religious Education if they are thinking about changing arrangements for the New Year.

This memorandum was published as a result of discussions at the Director-General’s Consultative Committee on Special Religious Education. By reminding principals of the requirement to consider the needs of SRE teachers who are working in a voluntary capacity.

It is my role to provide advice to both schools and religious providers about our religious education policies and their implementation in schools. You are welcome to provide me contact details to your team should they wish to discuss particular aspects of our policies.

Our Department will continue to promote an understanding the Religious Education Policy though our InPrincipal memorandums, Regional Liaison Officers and promoting our policies on the Curriculum Support website.

I am happy to discuss any aspects of your concerns if I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Published with permission from
Mr Brian Elliott
Executive Officer
Director-General’s Consultative Committee on
Special Religious Education
Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

Monday, 3 May 2010
10.00am - 1.30pm

Polding Centre
Taylor Room Level 8
133 Liverpool Street
City

Guest Speakers/Topics:

10:00 am  Introduction and Welcome
           Robert Haddad, Director CCD

10:30 am  Using Stories to Teach Scripture to Children (K-6)
           Cathy Young
           Principal, St Ambrose Primary School, Concord West

11.30 am  Break for refreshments on Level 5

12.15 pm  Are our Children growing up too fast?
           - the impact of sexualisation
           Chris Meney
           Director, Life, Marriage and Family Centre
           Archdiocese of Sydney

1:15 pm   Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements

Places are limited. Catechist Coordinators are asked to contact Mimi Rivera (9390 5122) by Monday 26 April with the number of catechists from their parishes who wish to attend the Catechist Gathering.
## Accreditation Courses - Term 2, 2010

### BASIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>10am to 2pm</th>
<th>May 10, 17, 24, 31 &amp; June 7</th>
<th>By Teresa C</th>
<th>St Gertrudes Parish 8 Justin Street Smithfield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>10am to 1pm</td>
<td>May 10, 17, 24, 31 &amp; Jun 7, 21</td>
<td>By Denise H</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd Miranda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INTERMEDIATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>10am to 2pm</th>
<th>Apr 23, 30 &amp; May 7, 14, 21 28</th>
<th>By Robert M</th>
<th>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Apr 26 &amp; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31</td>
<td>By Sarah A</td>
<td>St Felix Parish 550 Chapel Road Bankstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverwater</td>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>9am to 1pm</td>
<td>May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 &amp; Jun 5</td>
<td>By various FEOs</td>
<td>Korean Cath Comm 6 Carnavon Street Silverwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Mon 10am to 2pm</td>
<td>May 10, 17, 24, 31 &amp; Jun 7, 21</td>
<td>By Philomena S Holy Spirit Parish 191 Cox’s Road, North Ryde</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ADVANCED

None scheduled for Term 2

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## Catechist Ministry Certificate 2010

### TERM 2

- **Ministry (MC05)**
  - Robert Milan
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Wed & Thurs 9.30am – 3pm April 7, 8

- **Church: Universal & Local (MC06)**
  - Robert Milan
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Thurs & Fri 9.30am – 3pm April 15, 16

- **Controversies in Church History (MI22)**
  - Sarah Ayoub
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Thurs & Fri 9.30am – 3pm April 29, 30

- **Teaching/Learning Strategies (MI14)**
  - Denise Humphreys
  - CCD Miranda
  - Thursdays 11am – 2pm Apr 29 & May 6, 20, 27

- **The Eucharist (MI19)**
  - Robert Haddad
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Thursdays 10am – 2pm June 3, 10

- **The Call to Holiness (MC04)**
  - Robert Milan
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Tues & Wed 9.30am – 3pm July 13, 14

- **Legacy of John Paul II (MI23)**
  - Eamon Keane
  - Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St Sydney
  - Thurs & Fri 10am – 2pm July 15, 16

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**Note:** Catechists can avail themselves of Catechist Ministry Courses (CMC) prior to completion of Accreditation Courses. However, CMC Certificates will be awarded only after Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Accreditation Courses have been completed.

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### Getting Ready for Easter

**Learn from Br Julian as he demonstrates many great and interesting ways to present Holy Week and Easter lessons. He will also show how to use simple props and resources.**

**Miranda CCD Centre**

50 Kiora Road, Miranda

Friday 19 March 10 am -1pm

Registration essential due to limited places. Send an email to denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au or ring 9524 6400 and ask for Denise Humphreys
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Apr (Wed)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Ministry (CMC MC05) Day 1 by Robert Milan</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Apr (Thurs)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Ministry (CMC MC05) Day 2 (Last Day)</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr (Thurs)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Church: Universal &amp; Local (CMC MC06) D1 by Robert Milan</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Apr (Fri)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Church: Universal &amp; Local (CMC MC06) D2 (Last Day)</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Apr (Fri)</td>
<td>9:15am – 2pm</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn Tarots, Fortune Tellers, Mediums</td>
<td>St Gertrudes Parish 8 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Apr (Thurs)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Controversies in Church Hist (CMC MI22) Day 1 by Sarah Ayoub</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Apr (Thurs)</td>
<td>11am – 2pm</td>
<td>Teaching/Learning Strategies (CMC MI14) Day 1 by Denise Humphreys</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Apr (Fri)</td>
<td>9:30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Controversies in Church Hist (CMC MI22) Day 2 (Last Day)</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 May (Mon)</td>
<td>10am – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Catechist Gathering</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 May (Thurs)</td>
<td>11am – 2pm</td>
<td>Teaching/Learning Strategies (CMC MI14) Day 2</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 May (Fri)</td>
<td>11am – 1pm</td>
<td>Western Area Mass</td>
<td>Our Lady of the Rosary 18 Vine Street, Fairfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May (Thurs)</td>
<td>12pm – 2pm</td>
<td>Southern Area Mass</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Parish Rosa St, Oatley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May (Fri)</td>
<td>9:15am – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn Gay Marriage: Why not?</td>
<td>St Gertrudes Parish 8 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May (Thurs)</td>
<td>11am – 2pm</td>
<td>Teaching/Learning Strategies (CMC MI14) Day 3</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 May (Fri)</td>
<td>11:30am – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Northern Area Mass</td>
<td>St Charles Borromeo Parish 582 Victoria Road, Ryde</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May (Wed)</td>
<td>11am – 1pm</td>
<td>Central Area Mass</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Catholic Church 126 Liverpool Road Enfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May (Thurs)</td>
<td>11am – 2pm</td>
<td>Teaching/Learning Strategies (CMC MI14) Day 4 (Last Day)</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May (Mon)</td>
<td>11am – 1pm</td>
<td>Eastern Area Mass</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Church 2 Wellington Street, Bondi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Jun (Thurs)</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
<td>The Eucharist (CMC MI19) Day 1 by Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Jun (Fri)</td>
<td>9:15am – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn Islam</td>
<td>St Gertrudes Parish 8 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Jun (Thurs)</td>
<td>10am – 2pm</td>
<td>The Eucharist (CMC MI19) Day 2 (Last Day)</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fr Martin Monaghan

Years as a priest: 12 years
Parish: St Pius V Enmore/Tempe
Period: 2 years
Years as a catechist: 19 years
Schools taught in past and present:
- Drummoyne Public (1990)
- Erskineville Public
- Holt and Lyneham Public ACT
- Tempe Public
- St Peters Public
- Tapini National High School (PNG)
- Daramalan College (ACT)

Why did you choose to be a catechist?
The initial formation for Religious Life and Priesthood encouraged seminarians to take on the role of catechists to support local parish communities.

Do you think it is important that priests be involved in this work?
As our ordination calls us to teach, I think it is vitally important that we are involved. In addition, it says to our young people in schools that they are important in the life of the Church.

What are some of the joys?
One of my former students asked me to preside at his wedding! (This shows my age.) He spent many months tracking me down as he felt I was a positive influence in his life.

What are some of the difficulties?
It is difficult to work with the time frames given in schools. It is short and time goes very quickly. You wonder what you can achieve.

What have been some of the fruits?
For me personally, the fruit is in knowing that I make a difference whenever I share my faith.

How long do you see yourself continuing in this work?
I see myself continuing with this work as long as I remain able to do other commitments at the same time.

Fr Michael Court sdb

Years as a priest: 25 years
Parish: St John Bosco Parish, Engadine
Period: 2 years
Years as a catechist: 2 years
Schools taught in past and present:
- Engadine West Public School

Why did you choose to be a catechist?
I often say I don't choose many things – life or circumstances or need. As a person of faith, I would say God chooses things for me! So it was a combination of all of the above, plus I love children and want people to be involved in this ministry to them.

Do you think it is important that priests be involved in this work?
Ideally, yes it is important. Priests model what we ask of our parishioners, and we get the opportunity to come closer to children who are not regular participants in our parish. Thus, we bring priesthood to the children. It is good for them and good for me.

What are some of the joys?
The main joys are in seeing children grow in connection to the parish family and to God. For me, this is a privilege par excellence!

What are some of the difficulties?
Their levels of faith and connection are often very limited. So speaking to and developing classes to such a cross section of children from such varied positions is a challenge for me.

What have been some of the fruits?
As I mentioned, the fruits include seeing them make the connections to our parish families and to their relationship with God. I teach a sacramental year and so there is that added bonus of seeing some involved with our sacramental programs.

How long do you see yourself continuing in this work?
As long as I am capable, I will continue! I am doing it for the children. Each year, there are new children who need to be nurtured in their faith and connected to our faith family.
The first is a set of five Modules adapted from the national curriculum developed for World Youth Day ’08.

- Module 1 on Pilgrimage;
- Module 2 on the Cross and Icon;
- Module 3 on Reconciliation, Power and Adoration;
- Module 4 on The Mass and Universal Church;
- Module 5 on Witness and Mission

Each of these Modules can be used in lessons of any length, especially seminars, between Years 7-12.

The second resource is a new formal 12-lesson curriculum for Year 9. These lessons are in the usual Christ our Light and Life format and are designed for classes of 45 minutes length. Topics include the Bible, the Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Creeds, the Holy Spirit, sacraments, and Mary. For this resource, catechists need only purchase a Teachers Manual; there is no separate student activity book as all student activities are embedded within the Manual. This resource is mandatory for all catechists teaching Year 9 classes.

K-6 COLAL
Revision Continues
By Robert Haddad

The revision of COLAL for Years K, 1, 2 and Year 9 (see above) is now complete and these are now available for purchase. Your feedback on this material is both welcome and necessary to effectively complete the process of revision.

For 2010, it is envisaged to complete new curriculum material for Years 3, 4, 7, 8 and Year 10 (partially). Again, the process of revision for Years 3 and 4 will involve a collaboration with Parramatta and Wollongong dioceses. The High School Project remains a singular enterprise of Sydney Archdiocese.

Your assistance and patience throughout this whole process of revision and formulation is much appreciated by the Sydney CCD.

Can we be of help?

CCD can assist in weekend parish recruitment drives upon request. If you think CCD can help, please contact 9390 5122 to schedule a weekend.
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