Christmas Greetings

Archdiocese of Sydney
CCD Newsletter
Dear Catechists,

I am glad to report developments and news in the following areas:

**Staff changes:** Marijana Nujic is now enjoying the blessings of motherhood. In her stead, Sarah Ayoub has been appointed to fill the maternity leave vacancy. I wish Sarah all the best in her new role as FEO for Central (formerly Bankstown) in 2009-10.

**Curriculum development update:** A significant amount of time and effort has gone into revision of the curriculum during 2009. I am happy to report that the new Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 have been completed and are now being printed; the High School Modules have been approved by the Archdiocesan censor and are available for purchase as of January 15, 2010; Year 9 has been completed in draft form; and work on Year 7 has begun.

**High School Catechists Project:** In the last couple of months, interest in this project has increased significantly. In addition to the four pilot schools in 2009, the following schools have contacted the CCD wishing to participate in 2010: Southern Cross College, Burwood; Marist Sisters, Woolwich; Marist Brothers, Eastwood; Holy Cross, Ryde; All Saints, Casula; Domremy, Five Dock.

**New High Schools/Youth for Christ (YFC) initiative:** As mentioned in the previous newsletter, YFC will be available to work in public secondary schools within the Archdiocese. They will form part of a collection of new recruits from other sources who will be available to teach SRE in a number of new public high schools. Stay tuned for more details.

**Life Members Function:** Congratulations to the 11 new inductees who received Life Membership of the CCD last November 27. This was my first Life Members’ Function. Hopefully, each of the new inductees will continue with their generous work for many more years to come.

**Boundary changes:** The consultation process regarding the proposed boundary changes has been completed. Included on page 11 of this newsletter are the lists of parishes in each Area for 2010. Please note that this list is provisional and subject to possible further change based on feedback during the next 12 months.

Robert Haddad
From the Faith Education Officers

Concord
Philomena Smith

Greetings to all catechists in the Concord Area.

It’s nearly the end of the school year and I can’t believe how fast the time has gone. I would like to thank you for being so welcoming and friendly.

Congratulations to all those who received awards at the Annual Catechist Mass. It was an event that demonstrated the important role of catechists and the commitment it requires. I thought it was very encouraging to see a large group of student catechists attend. A special mention must go to the awardees who received the Cardinal Gilroy Award for 40 years service and the Pope John Paul II Award for 50 years service. This level of service and commitment reminds me of the words of Blessed Mother Teresa, “It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.”

This term I have taught the Basic Accreditation Course at Holy Spirit North Ryde. Next year I will be holding the Advanced Accreditation Course at St John of God Auburn starting in February. Please check the newsletter on page 9 for details on the Accreditation Courses taking place in 2010. I have also had the opportunity to attend several meetings and inservices where I met catechists from the area. Please contact me if you want me to attend meetings, hold Child Protection Inservices or help with recruitment.

May the birth of the infant Jesus bless you and your family this Christmas. I pray you have a very happy and holy New Year.

God Bless,

Philomena

City
Robert Milan

Season Greetings to all the City Area catechists!

I wish to express my thanks to all for the welcome and hospitality I have received so far during my short time as City Faith Education Officer.

I was pleased to be present at the end of year function at Maroubra Bay; Child Protection Inservices at Randwick and Malabar. I was also involved in recruitment drives at Matraville, visitations to Marrickville, Balmain, Waverley, Roseberry, Surry Hills – Darlinghurst, Mascot, Haymarket and Enmore – Tempe. I have also managed to contact most parishes either through coordinator meetings or over the phone. I hope to contact all remaining parishes by the end of March 2010.

Refer to page 9 for dates of the Basic Accreditation Course in Term 1 as well as the dates for Coordinator Meetings, Orientation/Child Protection inservices and CMC Courses. I encourage all new and current catechists to attend the Orientation/Child Protection inservice as this is a compulsory Child Protection Accreditation requirement. I have organised three such inservices for February 2010. Child Protection Accreditation can be met through one of three ways:

• Basic Accreditation Course, or
• Orientation/Child Protection inservice, or
• Child Protection inservice (stand alone).

Catechist Sunday falls on 7 February 2010. I am available to assist any parish in catechist recruitment during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. I can be contacted on 0414 892 632 or at the City Office on (02) 9390 5122.

Have a most relaxed, blessed and holy Christmas and a fruitful 2010.

Yours in Christ,

Robert

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

Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
philomena@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Congratulations to our new Life Members, Veronica Altham from Hurstville South and Pat Cutcliffe from Gymea. Pat and Veronica have been catechists for 30 years.

By the time you read this newsletter you may have taught your final SRE class for 2009. I hope you have an enjoyable break over Christmas and come back to this ministry refreshed in the New Year. Looking back over the last twelve months the following are some of the things for which I am most grateful:

- The catechists who stepped forward to take high school classes for Cronulla and Caringbah parishes.
- The very efficient ushers and helpers at the Annual Catechist Mass.
- The 210 entries from our area for the Archdiocesan Art Competition - some of these are currently in the exhibition at the Crypt of St Mary’s Cathedral.
- The Yr 12 students from De La Salle College who taught SRE to groups of 20 – 25 infant students at Burraneer Bay.
- The small groups of catechists who met locally to complete the accreditation courses at Rockdale, Menai, Gymea, Sylvania, Miranda and Kogarah.
- Last but by no means least all the catechists who teach each week.

Congratulations to all those who participated in the various levels of accreditation this year – the Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced and Ministry Certificate courses. Next year all accreditation courses will be offered at Miranda CCD centre.

Once again I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me during the year. I hope you all have a happy and holy Christmas.

Denise

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Greetings to all catechists and parish coordinators in the Bankstown area. I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new FEO for the Bankstown region, a post which I will be taking up for a year while Marijana Nujic embarks on the journey of motherhood.

I am both a freelance journalist and a doctoral research candidate with the Department of Media at the University of Sydney, and a Bankstown local actively involved in my Parish. After undertaking the Accreditation Courses during the course of my studies, I always intended on sharing my love of the faith with others in one capacity or other and it gives me great pleasure to now be working within a district I know well.

The role of a catechist is paramount with regards to the faith formation of the young souls in their care, and I always considered myself extremely fortunate for the strong religious education which strengthened my love for Christ and demanded of me a deeper desire to fulfil His mission.

With hard work and dedication, I hope that we can work together to develop this love and fervency across the region, and inspire and engage more young people to let their light shine through Christ.

I am overjoyed to be joining the CCD and pray that I will be able to perform my duties in this ministry with tenacity and pride. I’d like to thank Marijana for doing an amazing job, and until she returns, I look forward to working with you all. May you all have a happy and holy Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous and fruitful new year.

God bless and keep you,

Sarah

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

At the Opening Mass of WYD, Cardinal Pell’s words ring true for the end of our catechetical year, “Whatever our situation we must pray for an openness of heart, for a willingness to take the next step, even if we are fearful of venturing too much further. If we take God’s hand, He will do the rest. Trust is the key. God will not fail us.”

Yes, God has not failed us this year but led us through difficulties and challenges and has ever more firmly planted himself in our hearts and our student’s hearts. It is a time to rejoice and reflect over the wonders he has done this year in our Western Area.

Catholic SRE is now active at Prairiewood High School, 437 catechists are proclaiming the Gospel in the Western Area, 26 high school students from Patrician Brothers College have taken up the call to become catechists, and 15 catechists received their full Accreditation. These are just a few of the little fountains of grace flowing in the West.

To help you prepare for the New Year, I have provided details for the Coordinators Meeting, Orientation Meeting/Child Protection Inservice and the Advanced Accreditation Course on page 9.

I have been fortunate enough to be selected to co-lead the Archdiocesan Youth Leaders Formation Course which is a full time, live-in course. It will take place from 23 November through to 19 December 2009. Although this is a fantastic opportunity, it does take place during the lead up to Christmas and it leaves me with sadness that I will not be able to participate in your Christmas festivities and the end of year gatherings this year.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have committed and served in the catechetical ministry - our beloved priests, coordinators, catechists, and helpers. May our heavenly Father refresh, renew and restore you as He gives you the gift your heart has been yearning for - the gift of His son, Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

Teresa
Tel: 9756 6638
Fax: 9283 5146
teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Highlights of the 2009 Annual Catechist Mass

Bishop David Cremin, Director Robert Haddad with 40 and 50 year awardees.

Margaret Spratt received the Pope John Paul II Award.

Maureen Power received the Pope John Paul II Award.

Shirley Hassett received the Cardinal Gilroy Award.

May Mitchell received the Pope John Paul II Award.

Charlotte Rennie received the Certificate of Accreditation and was one of the helpful ushers for the day.

Bishop David Cremin’s homily was inspiring.

The Annual Catechist Mass 2009 attracted a record number of people in St Mary’s Cathedral.
20 catechists received the Apostolic Blessing. Maria Braga is shown above.

Denise Playoust was one of six people who received the Catechist Ministry Certificate.

Marie Jose Callaghan was one of 25 people who received the Cardinal Freeman Medal.

Raymond Smith

Deacon Frank Zacka

Christian Grant and 80 other catechists received their Certificate of Accreditation.

Catechists took the gifts to the altar for the Offertory Procession.

John MacNally sang beautifully!

The hymns rendered by Annette Griffin and the Menai Parish Choir were fantastic.

CCD acknowledged the work of student catechists from Bethlehem College and three other Catholic High Schools.

Bishop David Cremin concelebrated the Mass with a number of parish priests from Sydney Archdiocese.
On Friday 27 November 2010, catechists from all around Sydney joined the CCD in recognising the efforts of its Life Members in a Mass, award-ceremony and luncheon. After the Mass held at St Joachim’s Church and presided by Father John Flader, the attendees moved to Lidcombe Catholic Club, where the CCD’s Director Robert Haddad thanked catechists for their hard work, effort and spiritual fervor in proclaiming the faith to the young. It was encouraging to hear from guest speaker Rev Michael McLean who gave an account of his experience in public school SRE. Awardees and their guests enjoyed a two course meal and were presented with plaques that commemorated their 30 year-efforts and induction as new Life Members.
**Accreditation Courses - Term 1, 2010**

### BASIC

<table>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>10am to 1pm</td>
<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiorda Road</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 12, 19, 26 &amp; Mar 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Miranda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>St Felix Parish 550 Chapel Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 15, 22 &amp; Mar 1, 8, 15, 22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bankstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver-water</td>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>9am to 1pm</td>
<td>Korean Catholic Community 26 Carnavon Street</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 20, 27 &amp; Mar 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Silverwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 26 &amp; Mar 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>9:30am to 2pm</td>
<td>Holy Spirit Parish 191 Cox’s Road North Ryde</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 12, 19, 26 &amp; Mar 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
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### INTERMEDIATE

None scheduled for Term 1

### ADVANCED

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<th>Area</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>1pm to 4:30pm</td>
<td>St John of God Parish 2 Alice Street</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 12, 19, 26 &amp; Mar 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
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<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Western</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>10am to 2pm</td>
<td>All Saints Parish 48 George Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 22 &amp; Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
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<td>Liverpool</td>
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**Catechist Ministry Certificate 2010**

### TERM ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations of RE (MC02)</td>
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<td>CCD Miranda 50 Kiorda Rd, Miranda</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mondays 10am-1pm</td>
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<td>March 1, 8, 15, 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theology of the Body (MI15)</td>
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<td>CCD Smithfield 8 Justin St, Smithfield</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Thursdays 10am-2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>February 18, 25 &amp; March 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Teachings on Mary (MI21)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polding Centre 133 Liverpool St</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays, 10am-2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 12, 19</td>
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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.

**Area Orientation Meetings**

Orientation Meetings are recommended for new catechists. In these meetings, the area Faith Education Officer (FEO) introduces the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Mission Statement, Goals and Structure. The FEO also provides an overview of the accreditation processes, courses and events for catechists. Furthermore, the new catechist is equipped with an in-service training on Child Protection. See below for the schedule of 2010 Area Orientation Meetings.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 Feb (Fri)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:00pm</td>
<td>Southern Miranda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Feb (Mon)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:00pm</td>
<td>Southern Brighton-Le-Sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Feb (Tues)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Central Bankstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Feb (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Eastern Marrickville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Feb (Thurs)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Eastern Daceyville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb (Tues)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Eastern Polding Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Feb (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Central Earlwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Feb (Fri)</td>
<td>9:30am to 11:30am</td>
<td>Northern Flemington</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Feb (Fri)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:30pm</td>
<td>Western Mt Pritchard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb (Mon)</td>
<td>10:00am to 12:00pm</td>
<td>Northern North Ryde</td>
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Please note that the CCD office and bookshop closes for Christmas holidays from 24 Dec to 4 Jan 2010. Online orders accepted anytime as normal. CCD will be happy to process the online orders in early January.
### Year for Priests Special: Catechist Profile

#### Fr. Huy Phan

- **Years as a priest:** 3 years
- **Parish:** St. Mary’s Cathedral
- **Period:** 1 year
- **Years as a catechist:** 3 years
- **Schools taught in past and present:**
  - Canley Heights Public School
  - Plunkett Street Public School

**Why did you choose to be a catechist?**
When I was ordained a priest, I took on the responsibility to carry on a three-fold task, namely: teaching, governing and sanctifying. Catechesis is one of the ways in which I do this. Moreover, it is also my joy to bring Jesus to children, whom Jesus loves the most.

**Do you think it is important that priests be involved in this work?**
Yes, indeed.

**What are some of the joys?**
I find joy in meeting and talking with the students with simple words of faith. I enjoy seeing them grow up in this faith.

**What are some of the difficulties?**
Class control can be difficult at times.

**What have been some of the fruits?**
I am delighted to see many of my students receive First Holy Communion. Some also receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

**How long do you see yourself continuing in this work?**
I don’t see a limit. I think I will remain a catechist as long as I am needed in this work.

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#### Fr. Steve Sinn SJ

- **Years as a priest:** 31 years
- **Parish:** St Canice’s Elizabeth Bay
- **Period:** 17 years
- **Years as a catechist:** 15 years
- **Schools taught in past and present:**
  - St Ignatius, Athelstone SA
  - St Aloysius, Milson’s Point NSW
  - St Ignatius, Riveriew NSW

**Why did you choose to be a catechist?**
I like being with children.

**Do you think it is important that priests be involved in this work?**
It gives me a break from problems!

**What are some of the joys?**
The faces of the children, their welcome, their response to the Gospel stories make it all worthwhile.

**What are some of the difficulties?**
It is not easy to learn on my feet what works and what doesn't work.

**What have been some of the fruits?**
The children remember the gospel stories. How amazing it is to see them listen to the gospel stories for the first time! These stories are a bedrock for faith, for life and our culture.

**How long do you see yourself continuing in this work?**
Till I die. The children used to go home and talk about ‘Farmer Sinn’, I was thought to be a farmer for some time!

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**Do you want to strengthen your catechist team? Are you struggling to maintain commitment?**
Then, this is the workshop for you!

**Write better recruitment scripts! Use the Direct versus Indirect Approach! Motivate your catechist team! And more...**

**Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney on Thurs 11 March 2010, 10am-2pm**

Registration essential due to limited places.
Send an email to robert.milan@sydney.catholic.edu.au or ring 9390 5122 and ask for Robert Milan.
High School Modules 7-12

I am glad to announce that the new modules for High School SRE have finally been completed and approved for use starting in Term 1, 2010.

There are five modules, with respective themes:
- Pilgrimage
- Cross and Icon
- Reconciliation
- Mass
- Witness and Mission

These modules may be employed as an optional resource for use in any class Years 7-12. They may be used in a standard lesson of 40-45 minutes, or any forum/seminar of any length. Release date is 15 January 2010.

Christ our Light and Life Year 9

I am also glad to announce that a new curriculum for Year 9 High School SRE has been completed and approved for use starting in February 2010. The program consists of 12 lessons, namely:
1. Reading the Bible.
2. The Old Testament: Selected Stories.
3. The Call of the Prophets.
4. The Call to be Just.
5. The Creed.
7. Images of Good and Evil.
8. The Sacrament of Penance.
9. Are Any Sick Among You?
10. Mother of God; Mother of the Church.
11. The Ten Commandments.
12. The Beatitudes.

This new program is mandated wherever Year 9 SRE is being taught and is optional for any Year 8 or 10 SRE classes.

For further information regarding the above two high school programs please contact Sydney Catholic Books and Resources on 9390 5130.
Christmas Gift Ideas

Self Standing Silver Holy Family comes gift boxed in a bed of plush blue velour.
Size 87mm x 75mm
$21.00

Nativity Scene is a delightful gift for young children.
Size 175mm x 130mm
$20.00

3D Nativity Scene Card is an excellent give away present.
Size 145mm x 105mm
Only $1.00 each

Nativity Scene in a Stable.
Size 115mm x 130mm
$10.95

Fabric Christmas Stocking with Nativity Scene
$7.95

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