Dear Catechists,

Welcome back for 2011!

**Ethics Update.** The teaching of secular ethics will start in 57 public schools across NSW, beginning Term 1 this year. Most of these schools are in our Eastern and Northern Areas. Ninety “facilitators” have been trained to provide 20 hours of teaching in Years 5 and 6. It is envisaged that ethics will eventually be taught K-6. We will be asking all coordinators to monitor the impact of these classes on our student numbers.

**K - 6 Curriculum.** The great news continues. K-4 is now totally complete and work has commenced on Year 5. It is hoped that Year 5 will be completed by May and Year 6 by November.

**7 - 12 Curriculum.** Years 7, 8 and 9 are now totally complete. Year 10 has been drafted and edited and is now in the hands of our graphic artist. The aim is to totally complete Years 7 to 12 by the end of this year.

**New Sacramental Programs.** The CCD has been asked by Bishop Julian Porteous to participate in the production of new sacramental programs for the Archdiocese. Denise Humphreys, FEO for Southern Area, has been seconded to write the teacher manuals and student activity books for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It is envisaged that the writing of these books will take three months and be completed in late June.

**WYD Competition.** I wish to thank all catechists and students who assisted and participated in the Madrid 2011 World Youth Day competition. The winners of a $2000 voucher from Harvest Pilgrimages were Theresa Maree Coyle, Denis Sylvester, Julie Pham, and Victoria Costello.

**Staff changes.** Marijana Nujic had a baby girl and is on maternity leave. We wish her all the best. During the remainder of 2011 Sarah Christie (nee Ayoub) will be looking after the Central Area.

**Catechist Council Changes** A big thank you to those catechists who have recently completed two years of service on the Archdiocesan Catechist Council. New members of the Council have been notified of their appointments for 2011 and 2012.
Greetings to all in the Northern Area! I do hope you have settled well into 2011 and had a fantastic start to the teaching year. Welcome to all new catechists who may have just started. Term 1 like usual has been busy for me, full of teaching, meetings and courses.

Congratulations to all catechists who received awards on Catechist Sunday, you are an inspiration to your church community.

During Term 1, I have had the opportunity to go throughout the region teaching the Basic One course and have had excellent attendance numbers. I would like to thank all those catechists and coordinators who attended the Basic One course as it is very important to accredit and increase our knowledge and skills as catechists.

The High School Catechist program is up and running again in the Northern Area with students being trained and entering schools as helpers and catechists. We have been very fortunate to increase the schools involved in the Northern Area. I am happy for the good news to spread with more Catholic high schools taking part. Please advise me if you know of any schools interested.

This time is personally going to one of great change for me as I embark on the vocation of marriage. I would just like to thank all catechists who have offered their support and prayers for me. During the month of May I will be travelling the world and thinking of you all!

While I am away, the Intermediate Accreditation course will begin at the Polding Centre, I will be back to teach the last few weeks.

Please let me know if you require any assistance.

Yours in Christ,

Philomena

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

What a fantastic start to 2011! With recruitment drives across the Eastern Area, there appears to be a heightened interest and a large number of new catechists and helpers joining the team – welcome aboard! The Eastern Area Coordinator Meeting was attended by 13 coordinators with seven apologies, my sincere thank you to you all for your attendance and for those who sent their apologies. This great vibe within the Eastern Area was made possible by the efforts and positive attitude of all catechists. The recruitment drive at Marrickville generated the greatest interest with 19 recruits handing over their details to be contacted by Sister Ritzlou. A reminder to coordinators that I am available for recruitment should you wish to book a recruitment weekend. I suggest that recruitment take place between the months of February to the end of Term 3. It is imperative that prospects are contacted immediately after the recruitment weekend, otherwise the enthusiasm and the interest wanes. Another tip, if a prospect says ‘No’, this may mean 'not now'. So I would ask “May I call you in six months times to see if your situation has changed?” People need to hear the message several times and be asked on more than one occasion.

The Basic One Accreditation Course has proven to be a hit with both new and current catechists attending across all venues. I would like to thank all coordinators and Parish Priests for accepting the invitation to host these courses. Catechists have certainly appreciated courses being held at their parishes.

The Eastern Area would like to welcome back St Clare’s College Waverley for another year. The College has found the High School Student Catechist Program extremely rewarding for the girls. They will be once again be paired with Waverley Public School.

Wishing you a delightful year and I hope to see you in my journeys.

Yours in Christ,

Robert

Tel: 9390 5122
Fax: 9283 5146
robert.milan@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Greetings and welcome to another term. I trust you all had an enjoyable and restful festive season.

As most of you may have heard, my colleague Marijana Nujic has just had her second child, and as such, I have resumed the duties of looking after the Central Area full-time for the remainder of 2011.

As a result of this, I have been extremely busy holding Basic One courses at a variety of parishes, which saw catechists refresh their learning of basic catechism and the ever-important Child Protection Legislation. It also saw new catechists start their catechist accreditation courses in preparation for what we hope is a long and fruitful career in the ministry.

Speaking of careers in the catechist ministry, we have at CCD always said that you are never too young or old to be a catechist, and we have been particularly excited about the High School Catechist project since it began. In light of this, I am delighted to report that the Central Area is now going to be welcoming student catechists from De La Salle Revesby, in addition to student catechists from St Charbel’s in Punchbowl and Bethlehem College in Ashfield. I will be working with all three schools over the next term to train the young people involved and pair them up with public schools in the area.

Coordinators who attended the meeting for 2011 will no doubt have made you aware of the schools which have included the Ethics Program as an alternative to Scripture in the area. I urge you to pay close attention to changing class numbers and dynamics, as I will be reporting losses to my Director and colleagues as part of a monitoring of changes due to ethics.

Finally, I would like us all to keep in our prayers the late Betty Brayshaw from Greenacre, who died recently after 40 years as a catechist. May she find eternal rest in the Lord whose love she always shared with her students.

God bless you all, and all the best for 2011.
From the Faith Education Officers

**SOUTHERN**

Denise Humphreys

Welcome to all catechists who are teaching Catholic SRE (scripture) classes in 2011, especially those of you who are new to this ministry. I was very pleased to see so many new catechists and some a little more experienced completing the Basic One course at Miranda this term.

Good preparation gives you time to be proactive and to vary your lessons. Remember a student's attention span is approximately their age - five to ten minutes. Use pictures, music, action songs, the Big Books and Br Julian's resources to regain and keep their attention.

This year Easter is very late, just before the beginning of Term 2. There are many resources you can use to enhance your Lent, Holy Week and Easter lessons. The Big Books – blue for Kindergarten, red for Year 1 and yellow for Year 2. Br Julian Quinlan has developed resources for each lesson. These are now available on a CD.

I encourage you to attend these workshops:
• Br Julian on Friday 25 March at Miranda.
• Catechist Gathering on Monday 9 May in the City.

The Southern Area Catechist Mass will be held at St Patricks Parish, Sutherland on Friday 20 May. All catechists and prayer partners are invited to attend. After Mass, there will be an opportunity to gather for a BYO lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Sutherland church is within ten minute walking distance from Sutherland Train Station.

As mentioned in the Director’s report, I will be taking a leave of absence from hands on CCD work during Term 2. I wish you all the very best for your work this term. Call or e-mail if you need help.

Denise
Tel: 9524 6400
Fax: 9524 6400
denise.humphreys@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

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### Staff Update

**Notice to Coordinators and Catechists of the Southern Area**

Denise Humphreys has been appointed by Bishop Julian Porteous as the principal draft writer of the proposed new Sacramental Program for the Archdiocese of Sydney. This is both a great honour and responsibility for Denise and follows her excellent work in revising the *Christ our Light and Life* K-6 curriculum.

As Denise’s work load is already onerous, it has been decided to relieve her of all responsibilities in looking after the needs of catechists in the Southern Area for a period of three months, commencing April 1. It is envisaged that Denise will complete her work on the Sacramental Programs during this time and return to normal duties with the CCD on July 4. During Denise’s absence a casual relief person will be employed to look after the Southern Area. Name and details will be announced in due course.

On behalf of the CCD I wish Denise all the best during her period of secondment.

Robert Haddad
Director of CCD Sydney

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**Casual Work Opportunity**

CCD seeks a Faith Education Officer to work on a casual basis from April 1 to July 4. The selected individual will work for the Southern Area during the period.

Please contact the Business Manager Eddie Kropkowski on 9390 5122 for details.
"Lunch and Learn" helps catechists grow together in their Catholic Faith. It is held on a Friday, once a month, at St Gertrude’s Parish, 8 Justin Street, Smithfield.

The next Lunch and Learn is on **20 May 2011**

9:15am    Mass
9:45 -10:30am  Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11:00am  **The new translation of the Roman Missal** by David Orr OSB
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 17 June 2011**

**The Eucharist**

By Robert Haddad

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**Accreditation Courses - Term 2, 2011**

| BASIC ONE |  
| Western | May 16 & May 23 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm | CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield | Teresa Culjak |
| Southern | May 16, 23, 30 & June 6 (Mondays) 10am – 1pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |
| Western | May 30, June 6, 20 & 27 (no June 13) Mondays 10am – 2pm | CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield | Teresa Culjak |

| BASIC TWO |  
| Western | May 16 & May 23 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm | CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield | Teresa Culjak |
| Southern | May 16, 23, 30 & June 6 (Mondays) 10am – 1pm | CCD Miranda 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda | Denise Humphreys |
| Western | May 30, June 6, 20 & 27 (no June 13) Mondays 10am – 2pm | CCD Smithfield 8 Justin Street, Smithfield | Teresa Culjak |

| INTERMEDIATE |  
| Combined Areas | May 16, 23, 30, June 6 & 20 (Mondays) 10am – 2pm | Polding Centre 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney | Robert Milan |

| ADVANCED |  
| None offered during the term. |  

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**Br Julian Quinlan Presents The Art of Storytelling**

Plus ideas and resources for Holy Week and Easter Lessons

Friday 25 March
10am-1pm
Miranda CCD Centre
50 Kiora Rd Miranda (Just next to Vinnies)

**Would you like Br Julian to run a session on storytelling in your Parish?**

Please ring Br Julian on 0405 096 018 to arrange a suitable date.
### CCD Calendar

#### April 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Apr (Wed)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
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#### May 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 May (Mon)</td>
<td>10:00am to 1:30pm</td>
<td>Catechist Gathering</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May (Tues)</td>
<td>9:30am to 3:00pm</td>
<td>Controversies in Church History (CMC MI22), Day 1, Sarah Christie</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May (Wed)</td>
<td>9:30am to 3:00pm</td>
<td>Controversies in Church History (CMC MI22), Day 2, Sarah Christie</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May (Fri)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Theology 1 (CMC MC03), Day 1, Robert Milan</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May (Wed)</td>
<td>11:00am to 1:00pm</td>
<td>Central Area Mass</td>
<td>St Christopher's, 233 Tower St, Panania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May (Fri)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Theology 1 (CMC MC03), Day 2, Robert Milan</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May (Fri)</td>
<td>12:00pm to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Southern Area Mass</td>
<td>St Patrick's, 136 Flora St, Sutherland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May (Tues)</td>
<td>11:00am to 1:00pm</td>
<td>Eastern Area Mass</td>
<td>St Andrew's, 6 Prince Edward St, Malabar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Church: Universal &amp; Local (CMC MC06), Day 1, Robert Milan</td>
<td>St Gertrude's Parish, 6 Justin St, Smithfield</td>
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#### June 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jun (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Church: Universal &amp; Local (CMC MC06), Day 2, Robert Milan</td>
<td>St Gertrude's Parish, 6 Justin St, Smithfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Jun (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>The Eucharist (CMC MI19), Day 1, by Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Jun (Fri)</td>
<td>11:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Western Area Mass</td>
<td>Mary Immaculate Parish, 110 Mimosa Rod, Bossley Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Jun (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>The Eucharist (CMC MI19), Day 2, by Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Jun (Fri)</td>
<td>11:00am to 1:00pm</td>
<td>Northern Area Mass</td>
<td>Holy Name of Mary, 1A Mary St, Hunters Hills</td>
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#### July 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Jul (Tues)</td>
<td>10:00am to 3:00pm</td>
<td>Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23), Day 1, by Eamonn Keane</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Jul (Wed)</td>
<td>10:00am to 3:00pm</td>
<td>Legacy of John Paul II (CMC MI23), Day 2, by Eamonn Keane</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
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### Catechist Ministry Certificate Courses - Term 2, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theology 1 (MC03)</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Fridays 10:00am – 2:00pm May 13 and 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church: Universal &amp; Local (MC06)</td>
<td>St Gertrude's Parish, 6 Justin Street, Smithfield</td>
<td>Robert Milan</td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:00am – 2:00pm May 25 and Jun 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controversies in Church History (MI22)</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Sarah Christie</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30am – 3:00pm May 10 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Eucharist (MI19)</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Robert Haddad</td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:00am – 2:00pm June 8 and 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy of John Paul II (MI23)</td>
<td>Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney</td>
<td>Eamonn Keane</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:00am – 3:00pm July 12 and 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2011 academic year opened with an unfortunate announcement from the State Shadow Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, that the Liberal-National parties will not scrap Ethics classes if they win government on March 26. Only last November 24 Piccoli was reported by the Sydney Morning Herald as saying, “While the NSW Liberals and Nationals understand the importance of ethics we do not believe it should be positioned as an alternative to special religious education … We don’t think that students should have to choose between special religious education … and ethics classes.” Piccoli’s latest announcement is undoubtedly a back-flip and effectively means that the battle over Ethics classes during SRE time has come to an end.

Where to now? The reality is that Ethics classes are here to stay. The St James Ethics Centre have set up a new organisation called Primary Ethics to organise the recruitment, training and placement of ethics “facilitators” as well as arranging for future curriculum development K-6. Primary Ethics have announced that they will start 2011 with 90 facilitators teaching in 57 schools across NSW. Most of these schools are in Sydney’s eastern, inner west and lower northern suburbs. They plan to teach the same curriculum as trialed during 2010, extending the 10 lessons over 20 hours.

Primary Ethics and their supporters are undoubtedly determined to take advantage of their political success and quickly advance Ethics into as many schools as possible. Besides the 57 schools earmarked to commence teaching Ethics in 2011, there are nearly another 70 P & Cs who have requested it for their schools. This number will probably grow steadily in the years to come. Supporters of SRE should be weary of this growth trend as recruitment of new families and their children into Ethics classes will not be drawn solely from the pool of non-SRE students.

On the other hand, there are also positive opportunities for SRE. The Ethics debate has made all SRE providers more conscious of the need to improve their own ‘game’, particularly as regards teacher training and curriculum development. There is now a conscious awareness to ensure that all scripture teachers have at least a basic level of accreditation covering classroom management, child protection and theological knowledge. Greater emphasis must also be given to recruit younger teachers and male role models and expand our presence into more secondary schools. Finally, while the media portrayed trial ethics classes as paragons of perfect teaching and classroom behaviour, eventually Primary Ethics will have to grapple with the same everyday issues SRE providers deal with – retiring and drop out teachers, poor quality delivery, curriculum revision, loss of student interest, etc. The challenge will always remain to convince families and students who wish to re-consider their choice of Ethics to ‘come home’ to Catholic SRE.

The challenge will always remain to convince families and students who wish to re-consider their choice of Ethics to ‘come home’ to Catholic SRE.

Robert Haddad
CCD Sydney Director
Archdiocesan Catechist Gathering

Monday, 9 May 2011
10.00am - 1.30pm

Polding Centre
Combined Taylor & Barlow Room
133 Liverpool Street
City

Guest Speakers/Topics:

10.00 am: Introduction and Welcome
Robert Haddad, Director CCD

10.30 am: The Life and Legacy of Blessed Pope John Paul II
Eamonn Keane, Redfield College

11.30 am: Break for Refreshments

12.15 pm: Challenges and Opportunities:
Q and A Forum on Ethics, School Chaplaincy
and High School SRE
John Donnelly, Jude Hennessy and Robert Haddad
CCD Directors of Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney

1.15 pm: Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements

Places are limited. Catechist coordinators are asked to contact
CCD via email on books@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au or
9390 5122 by April 21, 2011 with the number of catechists
from their parishes who wish to attend the Catechist Gathering.
CCD gave a warm welcome to ten New Life Members in a special Mass at Lidcombe and lunch at Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club last 26 November 2010. Catechists are awarded Life Membership after serving for at least 30 years.

From left to right, front row: Joyce Ebb of Revesby, Mary Hardaker of Padstow, Joe Castle of Mascot, Nonie Kennedy of Liverpool, back row: Carmen Rose Caruana of Mt Pritchard, Frances Gibson of Concord West, Tina Lenzo of Brighton-Le-Sands, Venetia Delaney of Liverpool, Nadia Caravello of North Ryde and Lina Saldaneri of Liverpool.
Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Term 1, 2011

Fr Peter Lynch

Frances Gibson

Joe Castle

Venetia Delaney

Carmen Rose Caruana

Philomena Smith and Sarah Christie

Shirley Bond played beautifully and inspired people to sing with her.

Sr Christina O'Connor

Guest of Honour

Concelebrants Fr John Flader, Fr Stanislaw Kluk of North Ryde and Fr Peter Lynch of Brighton-Le-Sands

Nonie Kennedy and Lina Saldaneri in offertory procession to Fr David Vaughan PP and Fr Peter Lynch.

Catechist supporters from Balmain parish
Prayer Book of Catholic Novenas
Beautiful, full colour illustrations enhance this booklet that contains the most loved Catholic Novenas for every Catholic in pocket book form. $7.95

Mary MacKillop - The Children's Saint
Children aged 5 to 7 years will love the activities in the workbook, and learn about Australia’s first Saint while doing them. $9.95

Letters from Mary
In this workbook Mary tells her story to children aged 8 to 9 years, through a series of imaginary letters. Lots of interesting activities for the children to do. $9.95

Never See a Need without Doing Something About It
This workbook is for children aged 10 to 12 years. Interesting activities are included with each story from Mary’s life. $9.95

Join our Birthday Club and receive a 25% discount voucher for your birthday.

Conditions apply. Birthday Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with Christ our Light and Life, To Know Worship and Love, Text Books, Big Books, Sacramental Programs and already discounted stock. The voucher can be used within a year of the catechist’s birthday.