



Children's Ministry Update

YEAR B : MARK

Volume 3 Edition 3: 2009

From the Editor

Hello everyone, I hope you are well and maintaining a balance with your workload even though the hours never seem enough! These past months I've been busy in helping Val settle into her new role in the office, refining dates previously set and planning worthwhile events to help you enhance your ministry with children. Val has taken to her new role fabulously and has many exciting innovative ideas on how our office can best support you. Val recently travelled to the South East to meet with parents involved in their child's sacramental preparation process and to meet with the key leaders in the parishes to discuss relevant issues facing rural regions. In June I was asked to facilitate the national E-Conference on 'St Paul, the man, his mission and message today!' It was the first ever live streamed conference held nationwide. Here we were in Adelaide, being part of each keynote speaker's session in Sydney. It is amazing what can be achieved because of technology! It was a great day with worthwhile table discussions and real food for thought regarding our mission and outreach in the world. Read more about it in on pg 4.

There are a number of key events approaching which our office is helping to promote: 2 separate Seminar Days with Fr. Paul Turner 'Baptism: the foundational sacrament' held at the Adelaide College of Divinity: 17th August and 'Children and Sacraments' held at the Catholic Education Office: 18th August. Both will be of value to attend to assist your work. Another event we are promoting is the day on 'Lectio Divina: A timeless, traditional and cutting edge component of catholic spirituality' with Karl Shultz, held at the Catholic Education Office: 11th September. We are in the midst of planning our annual Expo Day which is always a great day to network and gain new ideas. This year's theme is 'Developing Children's Spirituality' and we have lined up skilled presenters who will work with you and equip you with easy, practical ideas to adopt in your context. This is a day for you from us, it is our way of acknowledging and thanking you for your tireless, selfless work. It is free of charge and is a happy day to meet up with old friends and make new ones. It also gives me a chance to meet up with you and it gives you the opportunity to meet Val and see her obvious skills as she presents on this day. You would have received the flyer with all of the relevant information you need. It is vital that you RSVP by the due date. *May you be inspired in your ministry, In God's Blessings, Carmen*

We would like to visit your region or parish

Perhaps we could help you with:

- Planning
- Working with catechists to develop particular skills
- Sacramental programs
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Faith Formation with parents
- Parish activity days

Please contact this office by phone: Val 8301 6873 or Carmen 83016110 or we will contact you if we do not hear from you soon. We are keen to have a chat with you and help best support you in your ministry..Please call us!!!

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Diary Dates

- SEMINAR WITH FR. PAUL TURNER
18th August
- LECTIO DIVINA
11th September
- ANNUAL EXPO DAY
22nd September
- ADVENT SHARE'n'SWAP
6th November

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

OUR MISSION AS CATECHISTS

Jesus was asked to say who John the Baptist was and he quoted from the book of Malachi: "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me" (Mal 3:1). Put your name to replace the words 'my messenger' and you will see that you share the great privilege of preparing the hearts of children to be open to the Lord.

- We prepare the children we work with to be open to God's embrace so that Christ's image may be shaped in them.
- The formation of Christ in the hearts of children is the aim of catechesis, but God forms them through us, messengers.

- We help prepare the hearts of children we work with by sharing our own faith life as well as the faith of others through various activities which allow children to share their faith experiences also.
- We are called to prepare children's minds as well as their hearts and so we makes sense of the gospel by relating to their own life experiences.
- We are mediators whereby we facilitate communication between the children and the mystery of God.

Ask yourself...

- How do I experience my mission as a messenger of God to the children I work with?
- How do I see my role as a catechist? How do I achieve my goal as a catechist?



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This feast is traditionally observed on August 15th to celebrate Mary being taken from this life by her natural death and assumed body and soul into heaven . Only since 1950 has this teaching been a dogma of the church, proclaimed by

Pope XII to be infallible and is seen as a holy day of obligation. This event of the assumption is a source of great hope for us as we strive to be faithful like Mary and gain the grace of eternal life.



ACTIVITIES

- Fold a piece of A4 paper into thirds. Write LOVE on the top of 1st panel, HOPE on the 2nd, JOY on the 3rd. Illustrate each panel and take it home
- Write prayers of intercessions to share with the group or at mass
- Pray The Hail Mary
- Pray The Rosary
- Make a collage of words describing Mary
- Discuss the qualities and roles of mothers and cut out magazine pictures to put onto a poster

- Set up a sacred space with a statue of Mary, blue cloth, flowers and candles
- Discuss the significance of this feast
- Brainstorm the many roles of Mary as a mother and in the church

PRAYER TO MARY

Holy Mary, on this day, we honour your life as the chosen Mother of Jesus.

We remember your dedication to God and the joy and heartache you had in your life as you followed God's plan for you.

We pray for the love you had for God, the hope you had in Jesus, and the joy you found in your heart.

Pray for us as we grow in love , hope and joy.....AMEN

BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

PRAYER to MARY MACKILLOP

*Most loving God,
we thank you for the example of
Blessed Mary Mackillop,
who in her living of the Gospel
witnessed to the human dignity of
each person.
She faced life's challenges with faith
and courage.
May we be inspired to be more like
Mary in all we do.... AMEN*

ACTIVITIES

- Discuss Mary MacKillop's significance for Australia
- Have a prayer service to honour Mary MacKillop

- Write a prayer to Mary Mackillop
- Draw a portrait of Mary Mackillop
- Discuss the qualities Mary had and write a litany
- Visit the Mary Mackillop centre at Kensington
- Discuss the symbols used in the Josephite emblem
- Design a poster
- Sing a song written about Mary MacKillop eg: Michael Mangan: Mary of the Cross



'A Saint for Australia'... discuss

Write an acrostic poem

Compare the mission of Mary MacKillop and Jesus

RESOURCES

- Seasons of Grace: praying with Mary MacKillop....Cleary, Maureen
- The story of Mary MacKillop:[student&teacher texts]...Doyle, Bernadette
- A dream comes true: The story of Mary MacKillop for children....Goodwin, Joan
- Mary MacKillop:Holy mother to the poor...inserra, Rose
- Saints&Celebrations:[tape kit]...Mangan, Michael
- Saints&Heroes: set 4 video1....Powell, John
- "We are but travellers here": stimuli for small groups...Ryan, Genevieve
- Learning links to Mary MacKillop: teacher resources for the Religion classroom...Ryan, Maurice
- Mary MacKillop: a resource book... Swiggs, Theresa

These& more resources are available for loan from the Catholic Resource&Information Service: ph:83016869

Taken from the CRIS Winter 2009 newsletter available at:

<http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/CatholicResourceandInformationService/cris-newsletters>

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE, VICTORIA SQUARE, ADELAIDE

This beautiful statue sculpted by Judith Rolevink is found in Mary MacKillop Place and is a wonderful tribute to Mary MacKillop and to the sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Holding the hands of two children young Mary MacKillop seems to move with determination and a sense of purpose, she is a woman on a mission. Her mission is a vision of care and education for all Australians, particularly the poor. The indigenous young boy is a tribute to Mary's determination that all people deserve human dignity and justice. The religious habit of Mary MacKillop speaks of religious community, as Mary does not undertake this mission alone. The crucifix tucked into her belt is a reminder of the many forms of suffering that Mary MacKillop will endure throughout her life and of her devotion to the cross that will cause her to later be known as, 'Mary of the cross'. Her rosary beads speak of her strong faith in God, devotion to prayer that sustained her and to the Church that she loved so deeply. She made a great difference to the lives of those around her and that through her, the Gospel was truly proclaimed.

A reflection written by Val De Brenni



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We're on the web

www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis

FUEL FOR THE TANK

'Your work as a catechist is to prepare the way of the Lord in the heart of each child you teach'

Judene Leon Coon

Detailed Diary Dates 2009

- **Seminar Day with Fr Paul Turner**
When: 18th August
Venue: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **Lectio Divina with Karl Schultz**
When: 11th September
Venue: Catholic Education Conference Centre, 116 George St, Thebarton
- **Annual Expo Day**
When: 22nd September
Venue: Hindmarsh Church Parish hall, 252 Port Rd, Hindmarsh
- **Advent Share'n'Swap Day**
When: 6th November
Venue: Catholic Resource & Information Service, 112 Kintore St, Thebarton
- **Retreat Day**
When: 24th November
Venue: Lefevre Parish Centre, 253 Military Rd, Semaphore
- **Blessing of the Cribs Mass**
When: 29th November
Venue: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

Your Parish Story

The National eConference held to close the year of St Paul was followed with keen interest throughout the country as well as in multi-denominational and international centres in USA, Canada and the Philippines. It marked a milestone in the history of the Australian Church as the Broken Bay Institute launched its first-ever video-conference, live-streamed from Sydney.

At the Catholic Education Office conference centre, 20 of us gathered on Tuesday 30 June to follow the proceedings via video. I was there, partly out of curiosity and partly out of interest to update my knowledge of St Paul after having studied him in my earlier theological studies. Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, Sr Michele Connolly RSJ and Fr Richard Leonard, respected faculty from the Broken Bay Institute, took turns to deliver half-hourly inputs on various aspects of Pauline theology.



In between their talks, we had the chance to discuss among ourselves in table groups and then to interact with the speakers online by asking questions, offering feedback and sharing observations with the international audience. These comments were acknowledged publicly and responded to at the concluding Question and Answer session.

As the last speaker, Fr Richard Leonard affirmed, the use of current technology and media to share on St Paul is the way of evangelisation and inculturation today. It makes the idea of a universal Church so real and tangible.

For me, a newcomer in Australian society, it was a wonderful opportunity to see the Australian Church pioneering this inclusive approach to mass learning and shared wisdom.

Sr Liz Tham fdcc....Pastoral Associate, Salisbury Catholic Parish

Catechist Personal Prayer Page



ORDINARY TIME

A Season to Enjoy the Familiar

In Ordinary Time we have the opportunity to enjoy the familiar, to be at peace and to let things remain as they are for a while. 'Abide with me' and 'remain in my love', are the messages we are to take heart in Ordinary Time.

The idea of having space for our spirit to dwell in peace and to rest is attractive. It is also important that our contemplative side is given a chance to develop and deepen. The very nature of Ordinary Time calls us to be present in whatever environment we are in and to learn the lessons of this place.

Ordinary Time provides us with the comfort and also the challenge of removing our persona, the mask and the make-up. We are invited to take off our shoes, slip out of the role-relating postures and to be ourselves. Here, in our ordinary space, we enjoy our many relationships, what it means to be present in the ordinary circumstances of people's lives. It calls us to have our feet planted on the ground, our sleeves rolled up and the kettle on the boil. As we all know, there is unlimited scope to do the ordinary extraordinarily well.

Being With Jesus

Mary MacKillop spent countless hours in prayer contemplating the events of Jesus' life. She enjoyed the familiar encounter with Jesus her daily companion in all the seasons of her life.



When Jesus said, 'I am the bread of Life, and whoever comes to me will not hunger', he commanded that the disciples go and do as he did, in memory of him. This is every Christians task, to be bread for others.

- Reflect on the hunger of our world. Include the literal hunger of those who are without and then go beyond this to name the symbolic hungers.
- Try to unmask the hunger behind violence, fraud, pride. Consider your own hungers and the symptoms that develop in your attitudes and behaviours.
- Speak to Jesus about any experience in which someone has been 'bread for you'. It what ways did this affect you? In what ways will you be nourishment for another's hunger?

Source... Seasons of Grace: Praying with Mary MacKillop.. Genevieve Ryan rsj