



THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

Greetings

Dearest Catechists,

Blessings to you and your loved ones.

As we move into the last term of 2017 there are a few things that I would like to encourage you to do. Please keep your students focused on the work in class, maintain discipline, and ensure they respect your presence. If this is not happening, could you speak to your coordinator, the teacher in your class (if you are in NSW) or contact me. When visiting you, I will often mention how you need to be cared for. You are volunteers and should not need to become involved in significant discipline issues.

Our end of year celebrations are always important times where we recognise the wonderful work that you

have done, pray for our students and farewell retirees. This year we have a number of key awards that will be given to some of our Catechists, including a Papal Blessing to Chris Rule from Sacred Heart, Pearce. It would be great to have as many of you attend our end of year celebrations.

In this latest mailout, you will find resources on the Rosary. For NSW Catechists, you may use these in class, as there are scripture references to link these in with your curriculum.

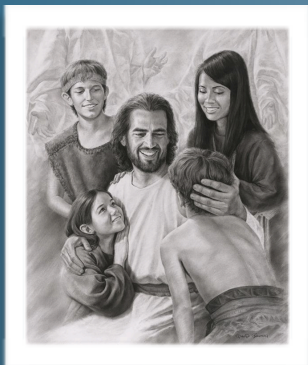
After much work and planning, staff are now in the new office next to the Cathedral. Known as the St Christopher's Pastoral Centre, it will house staff from Catholic Education, Favier House and the Rheinberger Centre. Despite the significant move, I

hope the support you have received hasn't been impacted in any way.

Australians are presently participating in the Marriage Plebiscite, and I'd like to remind you about the following. As Catholics we can and do remain committed to the great blessing that is Traditional Marriage. We also show great compassion toward those who are same sex attracted. It is not either or, it is both. If this issue is raised in class, please don't answer it, but refer the child to their parent.

Finally, continue to pray. Spend time in prayer for yourself, just between you and Jesus. Pray for the special needs in your family, pray for the children that you minister to. Prayer works.

Blessings, Matt



Blessings, **Matt**

Deacon Matt Ransom,

Claim the Date

2017 Celebration Masses:

- October 13** - Sacred Heart, Cootamundra (12pm)
- November 28** - Holy Family Gowrie, (6.30pm)
- December 3** - Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Narooma (9.30am)
- December 10** - St Patrick's, Cooma (10am) BYO meal to share

Contact us on;
02 6239 9832 or
matt.ransom@cg.org.au

Mailout

In

Teaching Resources - Are focused in this mailout on October, the month of the Rosary. Please read the very good article by a Protestant who discovered the Rosary.

Youth Magazine - Thanks to the producers of 'Kingdom Revelator' for this great resource.



To all our new volunteers
Keith and Anna Linard
from
Holy Rosary, Watson, ACT.

News from Rome

Pope Francis... delivered a shot in the arm to a constituency in the Church that might be under-appreciated by many Catholics... but which... often amounts to the backbone of the local Church: Lay catechists, in some cases paid, quite often volunteers.

“St. Francis of Assisi, when one of his followers insisted he taught them to preach, answered in the following way: ‘Brother, [when we visit the sick, we help the children and feed the poor], we are already preaching.’ This beautiful lesson encompasses the vocation and task of the catechist,” Francis wrote in a message signed July 5 but released on Wednesday.

The pope also called catechists to be “creative” in what they do, “searching for different means and ways to announce Christ.”

the backbone of the local Church

Every year, the Vatican releases the statistics for the global Church. According to the numbers released this year, as of Dec. 31, 2015, there were 3.1 million catechists, plus an estimated 351,797 lay missionaries. There were only some 173,000 catechists globally in 1978, signaling that the number of lay people occupying ministerial positions in the church has surpassed the number of ordained clergy (415,656 priests) by a considerable order of magnitude, and the gap is widening. (www.cruxnow.com)

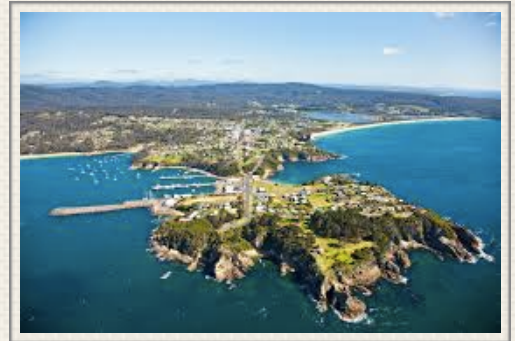
October - Pray and Fast

The Australian Catholic Bishops are inviting all Australians and especially Catholics to pray and fast for marriage and families during the month of October. Please find more information here.

www.mediablog.catholic.org.au

Eden, NSW Pilgrimage

A group of our Catechists, recently joined with Archbishop Christopher and Catholics across the region in a pilgrimage to Eden, where St Mary MacKillop had a significant presence.



Great Websites

There are many excellent websites for Catechists. In this section, we will feature some of them;

Cath News

www.cathnews.com/cathnews



A Funny Joke!

Three guys stranded on a desert island find a magic lantern containing a genie, who grants them each one wish. The first guy wishes he was off the island and back home. The second guy wishes the same. The third guy says: ‘I’m lonely. I wish my friends were back here.’

