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As the global financial crisis bites, Archdiocese warned ...

There's big challenges ahead

The global financial crisis means a difficult year ahead for the Archdiocese as a whole and parishes in particular.

This warning comes from archdiocesan financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn.

The challenge for the Archdiocese would be to live within its means, and for parishes there could be added stress on their main source of income, planned giving.

"Taking a theme from the current ABC comedy show The Hollowmen, I've been wondering if there is any way of 'future proofing' our recurrent operational finances," he said.

"In trying times, paradoxically, there is more need for a strong Church and it is difficult to reduce expenses without significantly constraining the mission of one or more of the Catholic agencies we support.

"Without question, these need to be closely monitored so that expenses are realistic. However it seems to me that the best way of future proofing our finances would be to increase our income, even in these difficult times.

"The main direction in improving income would be by encouraging parishioners with self-managed superannuation to invest their cash management funds in the CDF. Besides being a safe investment in these troubled times, it would help build the Church and provide a return to the Archdiocese without disadvantaging the depositor financially.

"The second challenge to improving income would be to examine ways in which a charge could be made for services provided or to encourage user pays. This would counter the weight of effort that is being delivered by priests to those who are not parishioners.

"Some priests claim that 80 per cent of their workload is towards non-parishioners."

Mr O'Flynn said the challenges would be most acute at parish level.

"With the possibility of an economic recession, there could be stress on planned giving income.

"With expenses continually on the rise and already most parishes needing to expend more than 50 per cent of income on non-discretionary items such as public liability and property insurance, the archdiocesan levy and School Building Fund contributions, this stress will be severe.

"The danger is that in these difficult times that regular church and building maintenance is deferred. This false economy will only produce a time bomb when major expenditure will be required to rectify the situation.

"Parish finance, like archdiocesan finance will only be future proofed if income levels are maintained or increased and we all learn to live within our means.

"On balance 2009 will be a difficult year for the parishioners, parishes and the Archdiocese."

CDF manager Mr Victor Dunn said the CDF would maintain its

contribution to the Archdiocese at the same level as 2007. CDF funds were not exposed to the market and the CDF's capacity to realise an operating surplus had not been compromised.

"The CDF does not invest in equities or property funds; the CDF invests in the Church," Mr Dunn said.

"The funds deposited with the CDF are lent to parishes, schools and Catholic agencies to build community facilities, schools, hospitals and, to provide aged care services.

"Money that is not out on loan to church agencies is invested with the Catholic Church Investment Service which exercises great prudential caution by investing in Australian bank bills and government bonds. Ultimately, all the funds on deposit with the CDF are guaranteed by the Australian bishops.

"CDF deposits have not lost value during this period of unprecedented financial turmoil. The benefits of saving with the CDF include: a secure environment; positive returns; the knowledge that CDF funds are used to build schools, churches, hospitals and aged care facilities."

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'Make a difference'



More than 400 students from 20 schools were encouraged to make a difference when they attended the annual Mission Mass at St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla.

Catholic Education Office director Mrs Moira Najdecki welcomed the students and announced the theme for the Mass, which was "one world, one family, one mission of love, one can make a difference".

"We live in a fortunate country, but that's not the case for a lot of other people," she said. "You have a responsibility to do everything you can to make a difference."

Recently returned from seven months long-service leave, Auxiliary Bishop Pat Power celebrated Mass, assisted by Deacon Joe Blackwell.

In his homily, Bishop Power said everyone was called to be missionaries. "We've got the opportunity to show others who Jesus is, the person who lived 2000 years ago," he said. "It's really important that people can see Jesus in us, in the way that we live."

Bishop Power said life is a journey, similar to the pilgrimage walk of 650km which he took part in while on leave. "Sometimes in the course of the walk people became injured, tired, lost and disappointed, but there was also a lot of joy and satisfaction, and that is what life is all about. It was a wonderful experience to see how people helped one another in all sorts of ways. We know during our lives we are helped by our family and friends, but we have the opportunity to be that source of help to others as well."

ABOVE: Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie, students Jessica Gowing (yellow), Caitlin Meany (green), Kristen Wilson (red) and Jasmine Huynh (purple) greet the gospel. BELOW: St Mary's Primary School, Crookwell, dance at the end of Mass.





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St Bs goes global

As part of the subject Human Society and Its Environment, Year 6 students from St Bernard's Primary School, Batemans Bay, created a "travel expo" to learn about world cultures. Students dressed in traditional clothing, displayed artifacts and prepared a traditional dish from their chosen country.

Families, members of the community and other students from St Bernard's attended the expo, commenting on year 6's extensive knowledge and the outstanding presentation of information.

ABOVE RIGHT: Jordyn Griffin represented Egypt and Bella Valentini created a taste of Turkey. ABOVE: Dominic O'Sullivan created a little corner of Spain.

Tamara's top snap

A budding photographer from St Francis Xavier College has had her talent recognised winning first place in a competition. Every term, photographic company Ilford holds a nationwide competition searching for the most creative and technically exceptional image.

Year 12 student Tamara Weatherburn was selected as a winner, for her photograph of rocks in the Snowy Mountains.

Tamara received a plaque, \$75 and publi-



cation of her photograph in Ilford's magazine.

Heather Corrigan and Josie Cosgrove, also in year 12 received merit certificates for their entries in the competition.

Treasures for future

Following the review of the religious education curriculum Treasures New and Old, religious education coordinators and archdiocesan Catholic school principals came together at the Rheinberger Centre in Yarralumla to discuss the changes.

After a welcome from keynote speaker and Catholic Education Office director Mrs Moira Najdecki, Archbishop Mark Coleridge spoke about the significance of the scriptural theme from Matthew (13:52) "the good householder brings forth treasures new and old".

CEO education officer Ms Donella Johnston said those present were given an overview of religious education and spirituality initiatives for 2009. "The day was a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to network and reflect on their work as leaders in Catholic education in the Archdiocese," she said.

ABOVE RIGHT: Participants at the schools gathering.



ABOVE: Not your everyday Australian parishioners... Taralga parish priest Fr Paul McGavin made acquaintances with the locals at the Goroka Highlands Show on a visit to PNG.



Charnwood parishioners have raised money to pay for \$7000 in donations they gave to help young people in country parishes attend World Youth Day.

Fundraising began last year with a Christmas raffle, followed by a number of sausage sizzles, cake stalls and recently a raffle of a gold cross encrusted with precious stones. This was crafted by parishioner and professional jeweller Mr Allan Russell and created from a donation of gold by a parish supporter.

Raffle winners Mr Geoff Rowsell and wife Olga with Charnwood parish priest Fr Neville Drinkwater.

Goulburn goes Irish

Hang on to your hats, Goulburn will be the venue this month of a festival of Irish and Celtic music. Workshops in everything from violin and banjo to dancing and whistle playing will be held as the festival runs from 7 to 9 November.

Among the visiting musicians will be fiddle player John-Paul Sweeney from Derry City and musician and singer Marie Griffin, from Lissycasey, County Clare.

Organisers are the Irish Musicians Sydney. inquiries: Kevin Doyle, telephone 9181 3365 and 0401 827 460.

Carmelite Fete



Saturday 15th November 2008

At 28 Mugga Way Red Hill

Great Chocolate Wheel -Tombola- Plants-Cakes -Books
Fancy Goods- Brie-a Brac
Christmas Hamper Raffle

Donations for the Stalls will be gratefully received at the Carmel prior to the 15th November, except Cakes, which will be gratefully accepted on the day of the Fete or the day before

Thank you for all that you will do to make this years Fete a success

PARKING NOTICE
To satisfy the local government parking authorities and to enable safer access to the Monastery, we request that your vehicle be parked on the Monastery side of Mugga Way. We respectfully ask that care be taken is not traversing any part of our neighbour's driveways or parking on nature strips as this has caused some angst to the Monastery in the past. THANK YOU

Greatest losers will be the most needy

Greatest losers in the financial crisis are likely to be those living in extreme poverty, chief executive officer of Caritas Australia Mr Jack de Groot said.

A member of Make Poverty History and involved across Australia in Anti-Poverty Week activities, Mr De Groot said the poor were the longer term sufferers of the crisis. The extremely poor will be most severely affected," he said.

"The diminishing value of the Australian dollar over recent weeks means that many international development organizations in Australia, like Caritas, have had our own ability to respond to the most vulnerable, greatly decreased.

"While people are turning their investments into cash, it is important that we not see a hoarding mentality adopted by nations or individuals. We need to build an economy that is just and focused on the common good."

Mr De Groot said it was crucial at such a time of instability to "broaden our thinking to include the most vulnerable in our society and in our world.

"The unprecedented boom Australia and parts of the world have seen over the last two decades has also translated into a significant increase in funding to overseas aid and development.

This year more than \$105 billion will be spent globally on directly challenging poverty. The results of this spending surge have been significant. Since 1990, 280 million fewer people are living in extreme poverty, 40 million more children attend school, every year three million more children survive past the age of five and an additional two million more people with HIV/AIDS are gaining access to life saving treatment. These are tangible and real successes.

"Adversely more than 26,000 children continue to die each day directly due to their poverty. An additional 16,000 women die every day due to complications in child birth. We have made some ground certainly, but we have a lot more to do.

"Unsurprisingly, though little considered, the greatest losers in this current financial crisis will likely be those living in extreme poverty. But have they received much attention?

"Already the US vice-presidential debates raised the specter that the financial crisis meant that aid commitments will not be met. Two weeks ago when the UN General Assembly met the agenda was to tackle poverty and investigate the progress of the fifteen year action plan to tackle poverty, the Millennium Development Goals.

"Instead of focusing on the most vulnerable in our world, world leaders focused instead on stock exchanges and credit arrangements; the impact on the poor was trivialized.

"This year alone, 100 million people were added to the numbers living in extreme poverty due to the new year food and oil shocks. That number is only increasing as governments, corporations and individuals flee from investment into warehousing their own assets.

"However the plight of those living in extreme poverty is still desperate. We must not only focus on the impact of this crisis on the richest countries of the world. As commodity prices fall, countries in the Pacific, Asia, Latin America and Africa which engage in selling their resources and minerals will be further affected. "These are many of the countries where we work because this is where the worst poverty is. Will the world forget them? In many ways that will be up to you."



Festivities on hold for some families

Christmas for some families will be as hard as any previous year, and maybe a little worse, Vinnies says.

Chief executive officer for the St Vincent de Paul Society in the Archdiocese Mr Bob Wilson said at least 1200 food hampers would be distributed this Christmas.

While no Vinnies clients were in a position to be hurt by the stock-market fall, cost of living increases in food, rent and utilities, such as electricity, water and gas, would make it harder.

"I presume there will be a tightening of credit and that may affect some of our people.

"Last year we spent \$3.4 million on people in need and those who are homeless in the Archdiocese. That was an increase of 3.3 per cent on the previous year."

Mr Wilson said potentially a number of retirees on fixed incomes and relying on their super might be struggling over the next few years.

"We have no evidence of this as yet, but we believe many more older Australians will be seeking assistance from Vinnies in the not too distant future. Those nearing retirement or considering retirement will have to reconsider their position."

Where money comes from - and where it goes

The Archdiocese's income comes from four sources, financial administrator Mr Herbie O'Flynn said.

"1. Catholic Development Fund (CDF) annual surplus is the mainstay of archdiocesan finances returning around \$1.5 million.

"Fortunately the CDF has a risk adverse operation and is guaranteed by the Archbishop. It has, therefore, not suffered at all in the current instability.

"Loans are made to Catholic agencies such as parishes, schools, hospitals and aged care facilities while any surplus funds are then only invested in Australian bank deposits.

"2. Levy of 5 per cent on parish planned giving income returning about \$200,000 annually. Planned giving income is, of course, dependent on the generosity of parishioners so that any pressure on family income could effect the priority that parishioners place on giving to their parish. Overall the serious effect would be felt at parish rather than archdiocesan level.

"3. Investment income. As all the Archdiocese's (limited) investment portfolio is with the CDF, there has been no diminution.

"4. CCI rebate. The amount of the rebates is determined by the CCI board and the level of rebate is principally the result of CCI investment returns.

"Unfortunately because of the current financial situation this rebate which has been as high as \$350,000 in recent years will be reduced to less than \$50,000.

"Archdiocesan expenditure goes to Archdiocesan administration and grants to our different agencies:

Catholic Bookshop, Catholic Communications, Marriage Tribunal, Catholic Mission, Centacare, catholicLIFE and support of special projects.

"The largest grant is to catholicLIFE for the pastoral support ministry of the Archdiocese."

Donors remain generous

Tough economic times do not alter the generosity of donors, Catholic Mission says.

National director Mr Martin Teulan said the sudden drop in the Australian dollar against the \$US may affect the amount of money Catholic Mission can distribute next year, unless as expected there was some recovery.

"We also have systems in place to buy overseas currency when the Australian dollar is trading strongly.

"All donations received by Catholic Mission are distributed to projects overseas in US dollars.

"Fortunately this year we locked in our funds for distribution when one Australian dollar bought 92.5 US cents compared to the

current 65-70 US cents."

Mr Teulan said donations held up well in tough economic times. "Our parish appeals for 2008 in NSW and the ACT are up 10 per cent over the same time last year.

"In fact, back in 1990 during the last recession, donations to Catholic Mission actually increased, as our donors became more aware of other people's needs in times of hardship.

"In the developing world people are struggling every day, with basic foods doubling in price in many countries this year.

'Our donors realise that more than ever we need to reach out to these people in need.'



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Manager: Victor Dunn.

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Amazing tapestry of universal Church

The Synod of Bishops has turned out to be seriously hard work. People tend to think that anyone going to Rome must be there for a holiday, with endless lashings of la dolce vita and a few coins in the fountain.

Well, there has been a little of la dolce vita but a lot more of the hard slog that has to be when you have a lot to do in three weeks. In some ways three weeks is a long time: it's certainly a long time to be out of a diocese.

But given the size of the Synod agenda, three weeks looks pretty tight at this stage. The Synod used to run for four weeks, but Pope Benedict decided that that was too long and made it a week shorter.

The bishops also used to speak for eight minutes, but the Pope decided it should be five minutes; and some of the old Synod hands have said that that's been an excellent move.

In the first 10 days, we sat through about 250 five-minute speeches, not just from the bishops but also from the invited guests.

It's a marathon that challenges concentration, and at times heads have been nodding all around the hall. It's a real challenge to focus on the many issues and perspectives, the many stories and proposals that come at you every five minutes for days on end.

It's certainly gives a fascinating insight into the universal Church - and what an amazing tapestry it is.

We've heard stories of Churches for whom the Word of God has meant or means now appalling persecution, and we've all been deeply moved by that. We've heard from Churches struggling with poverty of the most basic kind, and from other Churches struggling with an often desolate prosperity and trying to deal with the corrosions of secularist ideology.

The Latin American bishops have brought us all the rich fruits of their recent meeting in Brazil which one of them described to me as a watershed in their history, a point of no return where the Church has to launch a new mission to the entire continent - "from house to house" - and to be genuinely bold in the task.

We've heard the voice of the Churches of the East, even the Patriarch of Constantinople in the Sistine Chapel; we've heard from other Christian Churches and communities; we've heard from the Chief Rabbi of Haifa which was itself strangely moving.

We've also worked hard in the small groups to formulate propositions which try to focus the Synod's work.

I'm secretary and spokesman for one of the groups, which has about 25 members from all around the world united only by the English language. It hasn't always been easy to come to a common mind on complex issues which are seen from very different angles. In fact at times it's been quite frustrating.

But it's also been a rich experience of the universal Church and shown us more of what it

means to live in the communion of the Church.

It takes a lot of listening, straining to see things from another angle. It also takes the kind of humility that is prepared to learn from others whom initially I might be tempted to dismiss.

The 10 small language-groups generated hundreds of propositions which the secretaries then had to collate and reduce, given the inevitable repetition and overlap, to say nothing of the tendency of bishops to rattle on a bit.

The hope is that we can reduce the original 250 to something like 50 propositions which will express the common mind of the Synod and be presented to the Pope as the fruit of the Synod's work.

The Holy Father himself has often been present in the Synod Hall, and it's clear that his presence is anything but token.

He sits up the front with pen in hand, carefully following and occasionally underlining the texts of the speeches being made - very much the university professor he was for many years.

At no stage has his energy or concentration flagged, and I have to say that we've all been struck by how extraordinarily fit and well he looks for a man of his years.

He has also spoken twice to the assembly, and done so with that combination of simplicity and profundity that has always been his trademark.

He has an amazing ability to speak off the cuff as it were, with not a note in sight, and yet to produce something which is immediately ready for publication.

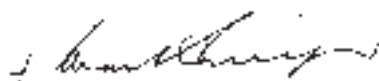
Part of the hard work here has also been the round of extra-curricular activities.

We've had Mass and a concert at St Paul's Outside the Walls; Mass in St Peter's for the 50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII; lunch at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See who are gearing up for the arrival of Tim Fischer; lunch at the North American College and dinner at the Irish College and the Beda College; we'll finish with lunch with the Pope on Saturday and Mass in St Peter's on Sunday morning.

I've also been able to catch up with a lot of old mates of mine from the days when I studied here or worked in the Vatican.

It all leaves me with the sense I've often had before - that whatever else about it, Rome remains one of the great crossroads of the world. Enough for now - I must get back to work.

I have prayed for you all at the Tombs of the Apostles. Pray for me and all of us here that we may be their worthy successors.



+Bishop Mark

● For the full text of Archbishop Coleridge's address to the Synod go to the Archdiocese's website www.cg.catholic.org.au



There's a silver lining to every cloud

By Zilla Lyons, Regional Manager, Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund

The financial crisis pounding markets worldwide is unprecedented and has had a devastating effect on the paper worth of a great many Australians.

The savings of most people using the superannuation system as their depository vehicle and invested in these same markets have experienced enormous volatility. After four years of very strong returns, the worm has undoubtedly turned. The current climate of negative returns is rapidly depleting much of the gains of the last year or so. Investors that are in growth assets such as shares and property will be going through a nervous time at the moment and will need to have conviction that these markets will recover. It is a very uncomfortable ride, especially for our senior citizens and those approaching retirement.

Investor anxiety is very real, but knee-jerk reactions rather than strategic placement of investor funds can produce unsatisfactory yields for members over the longer term.

Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund members are continually reminded that super is not a class of investment, but a government-endorsed vehicle providing taxation and Centrelink-friendly benefits not readily available elsewhere. We educate members to continue salary sacrificing to super, where appropriate, as the tax saving benefits of up to 31.5% endure regardless of market conditions.

The tax savings continue as no other vehicle allows investments where earnings in retirement phase are not even taxed and do not need inclusion in tax returns. Our concerted message is to retain focus on the bigger picture, remember the tax savings and don't get caught up in the panic and irrational fear which can lead to rash decision making and greater losses over the longer term.

Most super funds offer a variety of investment choices and they do so because everyone has a different attitude to risk and time horizon for their investment.

When asked how long that horizon may be, most people mistakenly mention the few years they have until retirement, but neglect the many years that their money will remain invested during their retirement, providing a retirement income stream. Your time horizon is best thought of as the period until your money needs to be withdrawn for particular purposes such as debt repayment or other significant withdrawals.

Of course, if the horizon can be lengthened without duress during these times of financial turmoil, then even better. Some pre-retirees have already altered their planned retirement date to work that little bit longer or even work part-time during retirement. Existing retirees may also be gaining more Centrelink benefits or returning to work part-time.

These actions could lessen the reliance on accumulated savings, and provide the time buffer until the market has improved and the investor feels more comfortable that their accumulated savings will see them through the years ahead.

The world is truly a small place when a country like Australia, with sound economic fundamentals, can be brought to the brink of recession by factors originating in the US and beyond our control. Australia's front line and second-tier banking structures have been fortunate to have had the watchful eye of the Reserve Bank and the regulators.

However, without this global financial meltdown, how long would it have been before Australia's banks stretched the boundaries and threatened our own solid banking system and the fundamentals of the economy it supports?

Every cloud has a silver lining and the resultant government actions necessitated by collapses, mergers and rescues will no doubt expedite measures to force all nations to better regulate their financial systems and investment marketplaces. This action will promise greater security for the savings of all Australians especially our children and grandchildren.

Australia is not only rich in resources of the earth and the mind but has a history of strong dedicated leaders and is better placed than any country in the world to ride out these tumultuous times. There will undoubtedly be some pain, but Australia will emerge from this crisis essentially stronger. The regulatory controls, that will no doubt be introduced, will provide more certainty and confidence in investment markets leading to superior returns in the future.

Disclaimer: This superannuation article is for general information only. It does not take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. As a result, you should consider its appropriateness to your own situation and obtain independent financial advice before making any decisions about your superannuation.

voices



A look at some of the ramifications of the financial crisis for those with super

Canadian joins papal embassy

A 37-year-old Canadian priest has been appointed secretary at the Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra.

Fr Frank Leo Jr replaces Archbishop Jude Okolo, who has taken up a post as Apostolic Nuncio to Chad and the Central African Republic.

Fr Leo, who was born in 1971 in Montréal, Québec, will assist

the Pope's ambassador Apostolic Nuncio Giuseppe Lazzarotto.

Fr Leo was ordained in December 1996 and served as an assistant priest until 2003 and a parish priest until 2006.

He then went on to study at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome.

He is proficient in English, French, Italian and Spanish.



Farmers pray city folk will understand

In one of the worst droughts Australia has seen, archdiocesan Catholics have done the only thing left to do, pray.

About 200 people attended a day of prayer dedicated to farmers, fisherman and foresters, their families and communities, celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at St Mary's Church, Bombala.

Coinciding with the reopening of the newly repaired church, Archbishop Coleridge launched the day of prayer a week early because he was overseas on 5 October, the day which marked 217 years since the arrival of the first merino sheep in Australia.

Bombala parish priest Fr Mick MacAndrew, who had the idea for the day of prayer, said the rural area desperately needed rain. "Praying is the only thing left to do," he said.

"Prayer transforms our hearts and minds. We're not after instantaneous miracles - prayer turns us to God. We're simply turning to God."

Archbishop Coleridge also encouraged parishioners to turn to God during tough times.

"There is the drought, there is the change in demography and these are tough times," he said. "It's a different kind of toughness than our forebears faced, but it's no less real and



Photo caption: Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Mr Murray Garnock and Mr Graham Rumph with a statue of a shepherd outside St Mary's Church, Bombala.

the fears are no less real, no less powerful.

"We are like those who have gone before us, who in the midst of their fears and under every pressure, reached out to touch the Lord crucified and risen, and they knew his power and they knew his peace."

During the ceremony Archbishop Coleridge blessed the farmers, fisherman and foresters and some farming tools.

During the ceremony a fifth generation local farmer Mr Murray Garnock delivered a reflection.

"We are truly lost sheep if we think we can prosper on our

own," he said. "The challenge ahead lies in keeping our communities functioning.

"The last half of the 20th century hasn't been kind to them - the mechanisation of jobs, the abundance of oil and the cheapness of travel as well as the disincentive of bureaucracy have all combined to depopulate these productive areas.

"We all need to encompass change, to rise to the challenges and to reap the rewards."

Fourth generation farmer Mr Graham Rumph said his sheep and cattle farm was functioning at 60 per cent of its capacity. "If we can get an inch (of rain) in the next month we'll be laughing," he said.

Mr Rumph said he hoped a day of prayer would make city people empathise with farmers.

"I think people from the country understand the situation we are in with the drought, but I don't think city people understand where the food comes from."

Awards for cross, icon journey coverage

Catholic Voice has been highly commended in three sections of the annual Australasian Catholic Press Association awards.

In the ecumenical Australasian Religious Press awards, the Archdiocese's website was highly commended in the best website section.

Catholic Voice received highly commended awards from ACPA for best newspaper front page, best editorial feature and best newspaper layout and design.

The judges said the front page with the headline Touched By The Cross was "simple with an extraordinary depth of comment. The heading provides sublime linkage with the photo and the sheer adoration on the faces of these two young people is an emotive invitation to pick up a copy of this special edition. It navigates simply at top and bottom to more excellent pictures both inside and online."

The award in the section of best feature was for the eight-page special coverage of the Journey of the Cross and Icon.

In the layout and design award, Catholic Voice was described as "consistent in its design, built around excellent use of photos, both in special treatments such as the WYD 8-page wraparound and in the main body of the paper each issue. Clear modular layout and good signposting of content. Strong communication with its readership in its news, Reader participation and information sections. Multi-coloured headlines can become a comic book distraction, but this paper limited the colour to blue and applied it only in headlines where difference is desirable."

The Bishop Phillip Kennedy Memorial prize for best newspaper went to The Catholic Weekly in Sydney and best magazine to Catholic Outlook, from the Parramatta Diocese.

E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au



Help keep Christianity alive in the Holy Land and Middle East

Moved by the desperate plight of Christians in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has been supporting the country's beleaguered Christian population.

Sadly, due to ongoing violence and oppression, the proportion of Christians in the Holy Land has plummeted from 20 percent to as little as 1.4 percent in the last 40 years.

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

A beautiful, handcrafted crib, made of olive wood in Bethlehem, will be sent to all those who give a donation of \$20.00 or more to help this campaign.

Please tick the box below if you would like to receive the little olive wood crib*.

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I/We enclose \$..... to help keep Christianity alive in the Holy Land and Middle East.

☐ Yes please send me the little olive wood crib*

Made of olive wood from the Holy Land, this delightful little crib scene is powerfully evocative of Christ's birthplace.

The cribs are lovingly, handcrafted by poverty stricken families in Bethlehem and your donation helps them survive.

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Marymead's family skills team (from left) Mr Tony Wallace, Ms Mary Ford and Mr Terry Norman with an ACT Adult Community Education Award for community contribution.

Men accepting invite to talk about feelings

Marymead Child and Family Centre is encouraging men to talk about their feelings to help control anger and become better fathers.

As a part of Marymead's family skills team, Mr Terry Norman co-ordinates anger management and parenting groups for men.

"The nature of the courses is non-judgmental and men have the opportunity to speak freely among other blokes in similar situations," he said.

"It's a big step for a lot of men to admit to needing help and for a lot of blokes who come here, it's the first time someone has actually listened to them."

Mr Norman said it had become more acceptable for men to seek help and discuss their feelings.

"We're beginning to recognise the importance of men as parents, and men are discovering they have feelings and emotions."

"Twenty years ago it would have been much more difficult to get men to talk about anger and love."

A parent and grandparent with an education and counselling background, Mr Norman said he had the life skills to help others.

"I have loved and lived and suffered, so I have some sort of sympathy with what these blokes are going through."

Men's group sessions take place once a week for a month and begin with an evening meal, which Mr Norman said is a good icebreaker.

"During the courses the chaps learn from not just the facilitators but from one another as well."

Marymead also coordinates women's and grandparents' groups, to which anyone is welcome.

For more information, telephone Marymead on 6162 5800.

Weethalle sparkles as west mission blessed

Thanks to the generosity of others, St Patrick's Catholic Church in Weethalle was as good as new for the commissioning Mass of the Archdiocese's Western Mission.

With the help of Tuggeranong parish, a grant from the Bland Shire Council heritage commission and a few private donations, St Patrick's Church had just been completely repainted.

A former Weethalle parishioner had donated a new set of Stations of the Cross and on a particularly cold day during Days in the Diocese, the church and grounds were given a thorough clean by a group of World Youth Day pilgrims.

More than 150 people attended the commissioning Mass, which was celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge assisted by parish priest Fr Troy Bobbin and Deacon Joe Blackwell.

Archbishop Coleridge spoke about the relevance of the second reading, St Paul's letter to the Philippians, which was the beginning of Paul's mission at Philippi in the days of the early Church.

Likening Paul's situation to the Western Mission, Archbishop Coleridge said there was a need to be imaginative in meeting the needs of the people.

As part of the commissioning rite, Archbishop Coleridge asked the team to commit themselves to be open to the Spirit, to embrace a new vision of Church with faith and to care for all people who are part of the Western Mission.

The day ended with lunch, which was catered by the Weethalle Show Society and held in Weethalle town hall.



Aileen Trembath, Eileen Halden and Muriel Clark enjoy lunch after the commissioning Mass.



Weethalle and West Wyalong community leader Sr Margaret Hart rsm, Ungarie and Burcher community leader Sr Frances McAleer RSJ, Western Mission administrator Fr Troy Bobbin, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Barellan and Binya community leader Sr Ann Steenbergen RSJ and Ardlethan and Arianah Park community leader Sr Carmel Piffero RSJ.

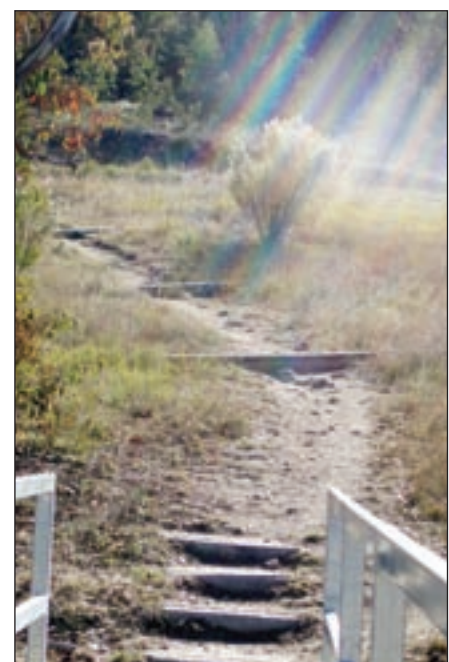
Adult faith goes on DVD

A DVD is being produced to inspire people to get to know more about adult faith education programs offered by the Archdiocese.

A graduate of this year's Catholic Adult Faith Formation (CAFF2) program Mr Greg Harris and catholicLIFE co-ordinator for faith education and spirituality Ms Margaret Ryan interviewed 19 people to gather material for the DVD, "Bridge to Deepening Faith".

Mr Harris has previously made a DVD of the connection between John O'Brien and his poetry and Fr Frank Bell, current parish priest at Narrandera. It was later shown on ABC TV's Stateline program.

Cinematographer Mr Peter Smith ended up with nearly eight hours of footage which will be edited to about 10 minutes.



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Our retired priests get a new home

Thanks to the generosity of a former priest and the insight of a former bishop, retired priests in the Archdiocese now have Lanigan House.

The Archdiocese's first residence for retired priests, Lanigan House, was built on the site of the former Garran presbytery and offers four independent living villas, three suites and quarters for a live-in housekeeper.

During a meeting about the proposed residence, O'Connor parish priest Fr Bill Kennedy suggested the name of Lanigan House, in memory of his distant relative Bishop William Lanigan.

"He was the first Bishop of the diocese, he established the sick and retired priests fund in 1877 and we're meeting today on the anniversary of his ordination," was Fr Kennedy's argument during the meeting.

Archdiocesan clergy support manager Mr Kevin Croker said the residences were built thanks to a former diocesan priest Fr Albert Havas. "He bequeathed his substantial estate to a premise for retired priests," he said. "Lanigan House is a wonderful legacy of his generosity."

Archbishop Mark Coleridge opened and blessed Lanigan

House, which he said was appropriately named. "What struck me when I first came here was how rich the history of this Archdiocese was," he said.

"So much has changed since the days of Bishop Lanigan, yet some things have not. One of those is the love the Catholic people have for the priesthood.

"This house is a living monument of the love that the Catholic people have had and still have for the Catholic priests. Something like one in three of our priests is retired. Without the retired clergy, we would be, as they say, 'cactus'."



Chair of the Clergy Retirement Foundation Fr Tom Thornton, Lanigan House housekeeper Mrs Angela Fleming, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and resident Fr Don Coutts MGL sit in the courtyard of Lanigan House.

Loved chaplain is farewelled



About 650 members of the Archdiocese's Italian community have farewelled their retiring chaplain Fr Giuseppe Canova at a Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral.

Fr Canova (pictured above with his brother Silvestro), suffered a severe stroke in June. He has retired to Italy to live in Treviso.

Principal celebrant Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto was assisted by Fr Adrian Cork, Fr Edward Evans, Fr. Drago Prgommet OFM and Fr Henryk Zasrura SChr.

During the Mass Archbishop Lazzarotto and Italian Ambassador Mr Stefano Starace Janfolla spoke glowingly of the contribution Fr Canova had made to the Italian community in 31 years as chaplain. Their words moved many to tears. After Mass, a reception, hosted by Italian regional groups, was held at the Italian Cultural Centre.

Fr Canova was born in Possagno, Treviso, on 19 January, 1929, and became a priest in 1955. He served in the Treviso Diocese before coming to Canberra in June, 1973. He returned to Italy in 1979 and four years later returned to work as the Italian migrant chaplain in Canberra.

Though Canberra was his home, he visited Italian communities on the South Coast, and in Wollongong, Griffith, Goulburn, Sydney and Cooma. Every Sunday he said Mass for the Italian community at Queanbeyan and Canberra, and once a month at Cooma. He officiated at thousands of baptisms, weddings and funerals. His annual trips to Sydney, Berrima, Galong and Griffith with members of the Italian community were popular.

In June he was admitted to The Canberra Hospital, where he received care in the rehabilitation unit. He left Canberra last month with brother and sister-in-law Silvestro and Mirella Canova, and will live in a home for retired priests in Treviso.

E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

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- 4:00 pm** Procession to St. Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin Street, Manuka
- 5:00 pm** Procession arrives
- 5:15 pm** Benediction
- 5:30 pm** Mass



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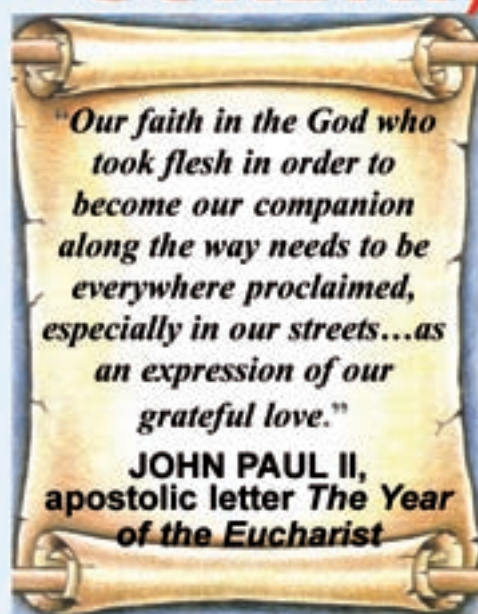
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A bus will be available to transport participants back to St. Benedict's

For priest who lived at the bottom of a Kings Cross stairwell ... Helping those on margins is just everyday work

By Naomi Fallon

He was a promising journalist and successful sportsman, but Peter Day's life took a different turn when he chose to help the poor by entering the priesthood.

Today he is best known around the Archdiocese for the work he is doing to bring to fruition HOME in Queanbeyan, a residence for people who are both mentally ill and homeless.

There was a time when his life was not focused on homelessness and the priesthood.

"I had your standard boring Catholic upbringing," he said. "There was no pressure. For many years I was a grand final Catholic - only went to church at Christmas and Easter."

Following advice from a teacher at Marist College, Fr Day studied sports journalism at the University of Canberra.

"I always loved sport from when I was about 12. Sport was my first religion. I would have loved to be a cricket commentator - that was my ultimate thing."

After five months working and playing cricket in England, Fr Day was back in Australia working for ABC radio when his career goals suddenly changed.

"I went to this Mass for homeless people in Surry Hills. I remember sitting there among those people and the gospel just came alive for me. Until then I had been pretty self focused, with my sport and journalism, but there was a restlessness."

The following year he entered the seminary.

"All I can say is it was like

falling in love. I knocked on doors and they opened."

Instead of going into a parish for training, Fr Day asked then Archbishop Francis Carroll to let him live among the homeless.

"I lived at the bottom of a stairwell in Kings Cross for eight months. All I had was a mattress and I showered in a public toilet block. It was a very interesting time."

Despite his stint in the stairwell, Fr Day said he could not pretend to know what real homelessness was like.

"My experience was one of very contrived homelessness. I had a home somewhere if I needed it and a family who loved me. However, I did find out what it was like to be lonely, bored and disconnected."

Before attending the Mass in 1991, Fr Day said he had "no idea" about homelessness, but he has been learning ever since.

"Aside from my deep love of Christ, this is why I was ordained, to walk alongside those who are most vulnerable. The main thing I learned while I was on the streets was that homelessness and mental illness are best friends."

After thinking about the idea of HOME for a few years, one day in 2005 when Fr Day was assistant priest at Queanbeyan, he shared his thoughts with the congregation during his homily.

"After Mass a parishioner, Tony Carey, who is now the board chair of HOME, came up to me and said he could help me with the planning. From there we got the board up and running. It all hap-



Fr Peter Day ... caring for the less fortunate is not a "special calling".

pened very quickly."

With the help of federal and state governments as well as many private and corporate contributions, the construction of HOME is expected to start early next year.

"HOME is a community vision; people really are extraordinary. Anyone can have an idea, but

Fr Day's said his idea is different to other homeless services, because HOME will offer medium to long-term accommodation.

"Mostly there is a 'one night stand' approach to homelessness, with only short term accommodation offered.

"That's why it hasn't worked.

‘People love being able to use their gifts to make a difference’

without the board, HOME would never have happened."

Despite the accumulation of initial building costs, Fr Day said upkeep of HOME would cost between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually.

"Building it is easy, but I'll be happy in 10 years when it's up and running. It's standing beside people for the long term that makes the difference."

We all need stability and that's what HOME will provide. It will be their home. We're hoping this could be the beginning of a national approach."

Fr Day said caring for the less fortunate was not a "special calling". "I don't think much can change for people on the margins until it becomes a mainstream activity.

"When we look at these things

like they are radical, it gives us an excuse to opt out. It's not for special people, it's for everyone. It's the most ordinary thing to do.

"HOME is an example of where people can contribute to making a difference. Until regular people start to think they can help too, nothing will really change. People love being able to use their gifts to make a difference, they just need to be provided with an opportunity."

Fr Day said he never felt called to be a parish priest. "My whole formation process was around street work. I've been lucky with Archbishop Coleridge and Archbishop Carroll who have looked outside the box and allowed me to continue with this work."

With no current plans to take up residence in another stairwell, Fr Day lives in the Marist monastery at Pearce and is a chaplain to the college and the Marist Brothers. "The thing I love about being at the monastery is living in community and praying with others. I feel very happy and lucky."

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Inquiries: Fr Peter Day, telephone 0407 914 341, e-mail pday6@bigpond.com or Anne Pratt 0412 460 308, e-mail stbenedicts@lizzy.com.au



HOME in Queanbeyan's patron Sir William Deane (far left) and Fr Peter Day accept a donation from Snow Foundation founder and chair Mr Terry Snow and Snow Foundation Chief Executive Officer Ms Georgina Byron.

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Hundred years of memories at Temora

A Mass, dinner dance, concert, family picnic and book launch were just some of the highlights that drew hundreds of local people and visitors to Temora for the centenary of Sacred Heart Church.

Bishop Pat Power was principal celebrant at the crowded Mass, joined by Bishop Gerard Hanna, of Wagga Wagga, Temora parish priest Fr Phil Harding, and former Temora resident Fr Kevin Goode OFM.

Bishop Joseph Dwyer, the first Bishop of Wagga Wagga, was parish priest of Temora when his episcopal appointment was announced in 1918.

Bishop Power wore centenary vestments especially created by Temora resident Mrs Margaret Sleigh.

A highlight of the weekend was the launch of Book of Memories, a beautifully presented collection of reflections by parishioners, covering the 100 years Sacred Heart Church has existed.

Written by local teacher Mrs Maree New, the book recorded many tales, both major and minor, that had been shared by parishioners.

Mrs New said an authorita-

tive history of the parish had been written by Fr Paul Bateman in 1981 when the parish celebrated its centenary.

She was looking to provide a different perspective to mark the centenary of the church, and invited people to share anecdotes about what the church itself had meant to them and their families. The result is a book that evokes both delight and sadness as the reader moves through the decades.

In preparation for the centenary, Sydney craftsman Mr Arthur Rudman restored the beautiful main altar to its original state and dozens of parishioners came together to refurbish the church, inside and out.

The centenary organising committee was delighted at the large number of people who attended the weekend, particularly the many Sisters of St Joseph. The work of the sisters for more than 115 years has been a major feature of the parish.

In thanking those involved with the celebrations, Mr Harding said: "I can honestly say I was proud and felt honoured to be the parish priest of this parish."



ABOVE: Choir members who sang at the centenary Mass.

LEFT: The beautifully restored main altar in Sacred Heart Church.

BELOW: Celebrants of the centenary Mass (from left) parish priest Fr Phil Harding, Bishop Pat Power, Bishop Gerard Hanna and Fr Kevin Goode OFM.



LEFT: Bishop Pat Power leads the celebration of Mass, with (from left) Fr Phil Harding, Fr Kevin Goode OFM and Bishop Gerard Hanna, of Wagga Wagga.

BELOW LEFT: At the centenary dinner dance (from left): Pat Quade, Sharon Coleman, Helen Thatcher and Anne Delaney.



LEFT: At the Book of Memories launch (from left): Norma Howard, author Maree New and Fr Kevin Goode OFM. Pictures: Liz Grant.



This month Catholic Voice visited class 3/4M at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Charnwood. Teacher Miss Lisa Mammolin said the class had been hard at work preparing to make their First Communion. During the Olympic Games, each student created a project about a particular athlete and their country.

ABOVE: Leziel Flores and Phoebe McGlynn take a quick break.

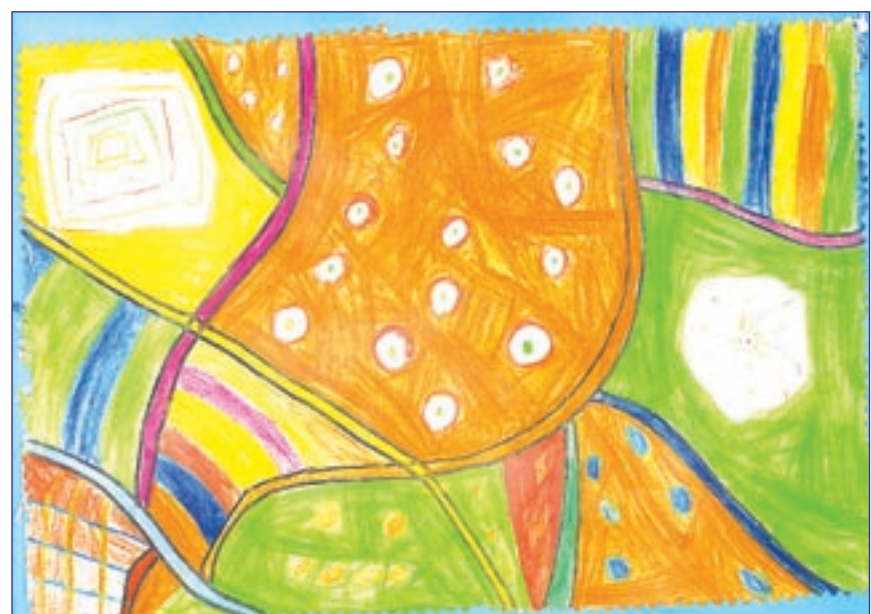
ABOVE RIGHT: Nyankiir Aboui and Taylor Murphy don't let anyone distract them.

RIGHT: Chris Panagiotopoulos, Cobe Christensen and Vincent Palencia didn't want to miss out on a photo.

BELOW RIGHT: The class, 3/4M.



Examples of the class's hard work including a beautiful butterfly by Chloe McMenamin (top left), flowers by Olivia Ware (above left), the story of Joseph and his colourful coat by Lachlan Dean (left) and the spectacular colours of Ciara McMenamin (right)



Nathan Kensey, former WYD coordinator for the Archdiocese, gets into a different daily rhythm of life in his role as a volunteer with Asha Niketan Nandi Bazra in India.

Some silences are deafening, but amid the chaotic din that rises from most of India, the peace and tranquility emanating from L'Arche Nandi Bazar hits just the right tone.

L'Arche (The Ark) is an international federation of communities for people with disabilities and those who share life with them.

L'Arche has been in India for more than 30 years and is more commonly known here as Asha Niketan, or Houses of Hope. The biblical name L'Arche resonates less in the religious pluralism of South Asia.

The community of Nandi Bazar is the only rural Asha Niketan in India and nestles in 10 lushly vegetated acres.

Seventeen core members (those with disabilities) live in three houses on the property.

The community also facilitates a day work program and a child care centre, which accommodates an additional 30 people with disabilities.

The daily rhythm of the

Spending time where the quiet ones live

community centres on prayer, meals, work and recreation.

The day starts early so the more intensive tasks (like sweeping and mopping) can be done before the heat descends.

The day work program, where I am currently working, provides products for sale such as soap, brooms, candles and envelopes.

Kanaka, a 45-year-old core member of the community and undisputed matriarch, has been stern in showing me how to use said brooms.

Meals are eaten sitting on the floor (as is almost everything here - prayer, meetings and work)

A multi-faith community, Sundays are dedicated to church, temple or meditation.

The simple life here in the community provides important

cornerstones of living often denied to people with disabilities; a chance to live freely, contribute in a meaningful way, and share joy with others.

After the maelstrom of working on World Youth Day, I figured that surrounding myself for three months in a country of 800 million Hindus, who have never heard of WYD, would be a therapeutic experience.

But lacking the language, unfamiliarity with the local customs and not being an especially domestic creature have created their own challenges.

That said, people with disabilities have an extraordinary capacity to teach, and I was reminded the other day of the simple virtues that guide one through such times.

It struck me last week that



ABOVE: Nathan Kensey with housemate Arivind ... simple gestures a reminder. BELOW: Kanaka, the matriarch.



Arivind, a core member in the house where I am staying, often approaches me and takes my hands.

He does one of two things; he either moves my hands to

clap, or clasps them together in a gesture we would recognize as prayer.

Praise and prayer; thanksgiving and humility. Ari's simple gestures have been grounding reminders for me - to be thankful that there are quiet and peaceful places in the world, and humbled that I have been blessed enough to spend a short time in one of the more profound of those places.

If you are interested in finding out more about L'Arche in Australia or Asha Niketan in India go to the website www.larche.org.au or contact Claire Lawler at the Genesaret (Canberra) L'Arche office, telephone 6282 8066.



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Trio get nod for Australia sport

St Edmund's College students Robbie Coleman, Colby Faingaa and Tyler Stevens have been selected as part of the Australian Rugby Union Schools' Team to tour Tonga and New Zealand.

Daniel Barac was chosen for the under-15 national football squad.

Top gymnast

Tiana Martiniello from 2 Red at St Gregory's Primary School in Queanbeyan achieved a gold medal for the highest score in the ACT Gymnastics 2008 grading level 1.

Soccer selection

Jack Green and Nick Taneski from St Francis Xavier College were selected for the ACT under-14 soccer squad, which competed in the FFA National Youth Championships. Toni

Pochi was also selected for the under-15 squad.

AFL premiers

After a slow start, Marist College charged ahead to defeat Ainslie by 24 points at Griffith Oval and take out this year's under-12 AFL premiership.

In touch for ACT

Marist College students Jack Gibson, Sam Kobal and Dougal McLauchlan and MacKillop College student Narelle Johnston were selected to represent the ACT in touch football teams to travel to Launceston.

Off to Hollywood

Tara Hughes from 11E1 at MacKillop College has been awarded a SourceDance Scholarship, which will allow her to train in Hollywood with professional American dancers for four weeks next year.

Info wanted for 09 youth diary

Eager to "harvest the enthusiasm of the young pilgrims who have returned from WYD", Archbishop Mark Coleridge has commissioned a comprehensive Archdiocesan youth directory and calendar for 2009.

This aims to help young people connect with what is happening across the Archdiocese. If you would like to register a group or move-

ment and send details of 2009 events, telephone the Archdiocesan Information Line on 6163

4333 or email youthevents@catholic-clife.org.au.

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Long road to ordination for this new deacon

Barely two years ago, Andrew Lotton was in Canberra working as a clerk at the South African High Commission, convinced that he was done with any notion of the priesthood.

But in August, Archbishop Barry Hickey ordained him to the diaconate on the way to becoming a priest. It has been a long journey for the former non-practising Anglican. Deacon Lotton, 44, left school after Year 12 without a clue as to what to do in life.

Living in Canberra, he followed his father into the public service until two friends from his country spur-dancing class (he laughs as he recalls it now) invited him to their Catholic charismatic worship. It got him thinking about his own faith.

Although he was baptised Anglican, Andrew was drawn by catechists of the Neocatechumenal Way teaching at his local Anglican church.

However he decided to join the Society of the Sacred Mission - an Anglican Order that forms its students for the priesthood in a similar approach to that used by the Catholic Church. He became a lay brother, studying in Melbourne and Adelaide. After two years he decided it was not for him and he returned to Canberra.

Attending Catholic Masses, he had developed a love for the liturgy and the Eucharist that, as an Anglican, he could not receive. He began to contemplate becoming a Catholic, and after about nine months felt a call to the priesthood beginning to form in him.

Received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 1995, he tried to forget the call, but kept getting reminders until World Youth Day 1997 in Paris.

There, as is customary, Neocatechumenal leaders issued a call the day after the week-long event for men and women who felt called to priesthood and religious life to step forward. Deacon Lotton stepped forward too.

In 1999, he went to Redemptoris Mater seminary in Perth in 1999, but after five years still had doubts about whether he should get married.

He left the seminary and returned to Canberra and to the public service, working in the High Commission. He was desperate to let go of his calling. During his two years away from the seminary, he attended another Neocatechumenal national meeting in 2006. He had no intention to step forward again, but instead found himself in a "constant argument" with God, whom he felt was calling him during the teaching sessions.

"That time was an important point in my life," he said. "I came back to the seminary because I felt God was calling me back, not because it was my idea. I'd left the seminary."

What kept him there was one of the key messages of the Neocatechumenal Way: that God meets you where you are in your life, even if you're not perfect. "God has looked after me and I want to share the Good News with others."

* Story, picture: The Record, Perth.

Sometimes eight does not need to be enough

With eight children of their own, Julia and Barry Rollings thought their family was big enough - until their Indian family was discovered.

Almost two years ago years the Rollings found their two youngest children Akil and Sabila were not adopted out willingly, but stolen from their mother and sold by their father.

In her recently launched book *Love Our Way*, Ms Rollings tells the story of her family and their decision to find and form a relationship with their "Indian family".

Aside from illustrating the "toll of child trafficking" and "advocating ethical adoption when that is genuinely in a child's best interest, Ms Rollings said she hoped to make money from the book to support their new family in India.

"It really came to a point when (the stepfather) Babu had a catastrophic stroke and despite all of our plans we had to make some changes," she said.

"We already had this family with eight children depending on our wages and now we had another family of seven. I actually thought I could make some money out of the book."

An employee in Marymead's High Support Program, Ms Rollings and her husband over 14 years adopted six children from overseas.

Ms Rollings said she and Barry created a "blended family" when they married, with her daughter Alexandra and Barry's four children Liz, Carol, Megan and Damon, and later their daughter Briony was born.

When Barry's children moved to Western Australia, Ms Rollings said the house felt "too quiet" and they decided to adopt a child.

"We didn't set out with the idea we'd adopt six children. Our first child Hayden took three years to adopt from Korea."

After visiting orphanages in Korea, Ms Rollings said she saw a need for parents of special needs children, which led to their adoption from Taiwan of Joel who is blind.



Julia Rollings with daughter Sabila and son Akil.

"It was obvious there were lots of children available with special needs. We wanted to look at children who really needed families."

After Indian brothers Madhu and Sadan joined the family, the final additions, Akil and Sabila arrived in 1998.

"After about five it was like we'd reached saturation point so a couple more didn't make a difference. We already had to buy in bulk and get a bigger car, so you may as well add another few."

When the family discovered the circumstances under which Akil and Sabila had been adopted, Ms Rollings said the family decided to contact the mother Sunama in India.

"Sunama wanting her children back was something I had considered. It took a couple of months before Sunama made contact and we didn't know what the reception would be to our outreach, but I felt confident in my children's legal status in Australia. They were quite definite in their desire to stay in our family, but I did think it was possible she would want her children back."

Ms Rollings said her mind was set at ease when she heard back from Sunama who said "they are your children now and you have our best wishes".

In March last year, Ms Rollings reunited Akil and Sabila with their mother, her second husband Babu and their five children.

"They didn't react with shock; the kids were comfortable with taking it as it comes. It was obvious the family had no money but they were reassured that we were going to do something to help them out."

Ms Rollings said with the help of family and friends, the Indian family was able to move away from the slum area they lived in and the children were now attending school.

Now with 16 legal siblings, Akil 15, and Sabila 13, said they were glad to meet their family and were looking forward to another trip to India in November.

"I'm glad she told the story," Sabila said. "It might encourage other people to tell their kids things and not keep secrets."

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Engaging with young people

catholicLIFE's new senior pastoral development officer has promised there will not be a "one size fits all" approach to archdiocesan youth.

Mr Matt Casey's role at catholicLIFE will principally entail managing the development of an archdiocesan youth framework.

"We've got some tremendous communities here, so we want to have something at the end of the day that engages young people and encourages them in the practice of their faith," he said.

"I have read the youth review and I'll be incorporating those recommendations into the youth framework.

"I want to look at good things that are happening in other parts of the country and see how we can adopt the best practices and combine them with the great things people are doing around here."

With a target of three months to complete the youth framework, Mr Casey said it was "early days".

"First of all I'm doing lots of reading and I'm starting to meet all of the people working in the area. I want to talk to people at a parish level and an archdiocesan level to see where everyone is at."

Mr Casey said it would be necessary to verify who was classified as youth.

"This won't be a one-size-fits-all approach. It might be that we need some different approaches for some different areas of youth."

A former police officer, Mr Casey lives in Goulburn and has been a counsellor for the past five years specialising in restorative practice.

After chairing the committee for the International Youth Forum, which attracted about 2000 pilgrims during Days in the Diocese, Mr Casey said he learnt a lot.

"One of the lessons we learnt from World Youth Day is we were able to get people to come together as a community.

"People are able to have a spiritual experience by doing God's work. There are lots of people



ple in the Archdiocese who want to be involved and help."

A review of World Youth Day in the Archdiocese, which will be published this year, should provide useful information for establishing the youth framework, he said.

ABOVE: Matt Casey ... "great things people are doing here".



Flower bearers Ellie and Alice Minogue with Elizabeth Doyle wander through the gardens at the Carmelite monastery.

'Everyone can be holy' like Therese

Anyone can be holy was the message given to those who packed the chapel of the Carmelite Monastery at Red Hill for the feast day Mass of St Therese of Lisieux.

Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Fr Brian Lucas, who celebrated the Mass, said it was challenging to find a new angle on the story of St Therese.

On the internet he discovered the saint's parents would be beatified on Mission Sunday in Lisieux Cathedral.

"There is great significance in the beatification of a married couple," he said.

"It shows everyone is able to be holy and we, with all of our

variety, can reflect some of the beauty of God. It's not only those who are learned who are called to holiness."

Fr Lucas encouraged people to find opportunities in their lives "to be simply loving in the service of others", like St Therese.

"St Therese's popularity comes because so many people can identify with the simplicity and goodness of her life."

A Carmelite nun and a lover of nature, St Therese was known as "the Little Flower of Jesus".

Every year during her feast day Mass at the Carmel, children bring baskets of flowers to the altar to be blessed and handed out.

Catenians mark their centenary

A forum this month looking at "One God in a Divided World" is one of the events being held to mark the centenary of the Catenian Association.

The event, held in conjunction with the St Thomas More's Forum series and Australian Catholic University, will feature a panel of speakers comprising a rabbi, and two ACU academics.

Rabbi John Levi, the first Australian-born rabbi, served as rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne for 37 years. He is a life member of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and a pioneer in the establishment of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews.

Associate Prof Anne Hunt is a lecturer in systematic theology at Australian Catholic University and at Yarra Theological Union Melbourne and rector of the Ballarat Campus of Australian Catholic University. Prof Ismail Albayrak became the foundation appointment to the Fethullah Gülen Chair in the Study of Islam and Muslim-Catholic Relations at Australian Catholic University.

The forum will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 12 November, at St Thomas More's School hall, Campbell.

Celebrations in Australia to mark the centenary began in Sydney with the inaugural Australian Catenian conference. Grand president Mr David Taylor, from the UK, addressed about 100 members from Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. He stressed the need for the association to grow, change and develop through a renewed focus on caring and friendship. The conference was followed by a dinner and Mass at St



Circle 331 president Mr Norm Russell, province 21 president Mr Phil Davies, Bishop Max Davis, grand president Mr David Taylor, Mgr Peter O'Keefe, Mgr Greg Flynn and circle 340 president Mr Warwick Gibbons at the Canberra celebrations.

Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Cardinal Pell.

In Canberra, Mr Taylor attended a joint meeting with local circle members and their presidents Mr Norm Russell and Mr Warwick Gibbons. Members were joined by Military Bishop Max Davis, Mgr Greg Flynn and Mgr Peter O'Keefe. The meeting was followed by a gala dinner.

Mr Taylor encouraged members to get away from old-fashioned ideas and develop new ones, particularly in relation to how they cared for and supported each other and their loved ones. He thanked members for the many Masses for vocations organised this year and for the support provided to members in Zimbabwe.

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It contains listings for Catholic jobs in Canberra when they become available.

The website offers users the opportunity to search for a variety of different jobs from accounting/finance to education - primary/secondary to youth ministry. Some jobs offered are for volunteers, while most jobs offer paid salaries.

The employment advertisements are updated regularly and the site offers employers the opportunity to advertise in the paper version of The Catholic Weekly.

Another Australian Catholic website that offers job advertising is CathNews www.cathnews.com/. Part of CathNews is dedicated to positions available www.cathnews.com/search.aspx?id=214.

CathNews advertises positions vacant from around Australia. According to the website, "CathNews offers a unique opportunity for organisations to advertise your company, jobs, functions and much more to a unique target market in the religious and not-for-profit sector."

To find other websites with Catholic employment opportunities in Google (www.google.com) use search terms such as Catholic jobs online Australia, Catholic employment Australia, Catholic professions, Catholic employment positions and Catholic job vacancy.

There are many different Catholic sites offering a wide variety of employment opportunities all around Australia.

If you need a job or want a change in your career, these are some of the sites that are worth a look. Good luck on finding your future career through the internet.

There's a lot of sloppy naming

There is a story told about the Russian poet, Anna Akhmatova. During the Stalin purges, she was standing one morning outside a prison along with some other women, all of whom were trying to deliver letters and packages to their loved ones inside.

Their waiting was made more painful because they were not even sure whether their loved ones were still alive and by the fact that the guards made them wait needlessly for hours simply to assert their authority. But, if they wanted to get messages to their loved ones, they had no other option but to wait.

On this particular morning, another woman recognized the poet, approached her, and asked: "Can you describe this?" Akhmatova replied: "I can," and a smile passed between the two women.

What had happened? Why did these women, caught up in the madness of a dictator, exchange a smile? Because to describe something, to simply name something properly, in some way already sets you above it.

To name something is to be somehow transcendent to it, not fully imprisoned by it, free of it in some way, even if, like Stalin, it has you under its yoke.

To name something properly can be prophetic, a defiant act, an act of freedom. Indeed that is what prophets do. They don't foretell the future, they name the present properly - often times in a way that exposes its faithlessness and injustice.

Nearly 15 years ago, David Tracy wrote a book entitled, *On Naming the Present Moment*. In it, with an objectivity that most of us can only envy, he tried to name, philosophically, the present moment within secular culture so as to highlight what is best both inside of liberal and conservative biases.

His essay was hope-filled and gave us direction in the same way that a trip to a good doctor gives us hope and direction concerning our health. Good diagnostics is the prerequisite for good prescription, just as bad diagnostics, bad naming, leads to either bad or useless prescription.

Today, both in the Church and in the world, there is, I feel, a lot of sloppy naming. We need, both for better diagnostics and better prophecy, to name our present faith moment more accurately. A symptom suffers most when it doesn't know where it belongs.

But there is more: To name something properly is also a form of prayer. Jesus called this reading the signs of the times. What does he

Ron Rolheiser

Oblate Fr Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.
www.ronrolheiser.com



mean by that expression?

What Jesus had in mind was not that so much that we should try to attune ourselves intellectually to all the cultural, psychological, and religious trends of our time.

To read the signs of the times, for Jesus, meant trying to read what is happening in our lives, communally and individually, in such a way as to discern the finger of God inside the outer movements of our lives.

My parents called this trying to see "divine providence", namely, trying to hear what God is saying inside the outer events of our lives.

There is a rich biblical background to this. Indeed, in many ways, this is central to the faith of Israel in the Jewish scriptures.

For them, nothing happened that was purely an accident. God's finger was always inside of every event, no matter how secular or accidental it seemed, and the task of faith was to try to read what God was saying inside every event.

For example, if Israel lost a war, it wasn't because the other army had superior soldiers. It was because God was trying to teach her something; there was something she was supposed to learn from this defeat.

Likewise, if there was a drought, it wasn't because there was global warming, it was because, for reasons Israel had to try to discern, God wanted her to live on less that year. For her, nothing was purely accidental, God's finger was somewhere inside of every event, speaking to her.

James Mackey once defined divine providence as a conspiracy of accidents through which God speaks. That runs close to what John of the Cross meant when he said that the language of God is the experience that God writes into our lives.

Our task is to read that language, and we read it when we properly name the events of our lives.

A proper naming does three things: It is prophetic, it names our faith and our faithlessness, our justice and our injustice; it is diagnostic, it points to the correct prescription to help remedy our ills; and, most importantly, it is a form of prayer, it tries to hear what God is saying inside the outer events of our lives.

Today we tend to name things too much according to our particular ideology, liberal or conservative. This is true both in politics and in the Church. The challenge is to be more careful and especially more prayerful. Not everything can be fixed or cured, but it should be named properly.

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Sumptuous, but it misses the mark

This movie depicts a period of history that has more than passing relevance to the life of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Based on an award winning biography by Armanda Foreman, titled "Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire," it is about an 18th century beautiful aristocrat, Georgiana Cavendish, who was in fact the great-great-great-great aunt of Princess Diana.

One might think it is a little risky for Keira Knightley to play the role of Britain's own Diana. Both women married young, were thrust into the public limelight too early, and won the hearts of their people while looking for affection and love from those around them; both became fashion icons, shrewd operators, and darlings of the public eye.

This is an English production of sumptuous elegance and studied richness where not a candle, tapestry, or bouffant-hairstyle is out of place. The settings and clothes are glorious to look at and the film is Oscar-nomination material in the category of wardrobe design.

Georgiana is married by her

The Duchess.

Starring Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Charlotte Rampling, and Hayley Atwell. Directed by Saul Dibb. 110 mins. M (mature themes and sex scene). Reviewer: Peter W Sheehan*.

ambitious mother (played particularly well by Charlotte Rampling) to the wealthy and influential Duke of Devonshire (played by Ralph Fiennes) who is interested only in the production of a male heir in a marriage in which love was never intended.

The Duke has an affair with one of the Duchess's best friends, ably played by Hayley Atwell. Fiennes brings to his role a touch of dourness and eccentricity, but instils it with clever theatricality.

For Georgiana, there is relatively little character development from the uncomplicated world of the naïve teenager to the heady political world of the rich and beautiful socialite. When the Duke takes on his mistress, who is a trusted friend and confidant of Georgiana, she struggles to survive in a threesome that has telling contemporary relevance. Georgiana herself takes on a lover to cope, and the scene is set for

permanent marital discord.

Again, with more than passing contemporary relevance, Knightley plays the role of a self-willed strong woman who finds herself forced into situations that constantly challenge her growing insecurity; as in "Atonement" she plays a woman destined for greatness, but who has character flaws.

Here, she turns in one of the best portrayals of her career as the adult Georgiana.

If one is looking for elegance and extravagance this is a movie to very much please. The Georgian set pieces are wonderful. However, at times one looks for more passion or sexual tension for those caught up in it.

This is a lavish melodrama in which the passions and souls of the participants are meant to touch each other and they do at times, but on other occasions they miss. As a result the film stays grounded a little in its studied elegance.



Keira Knightley... a little risky.

The drama is engaging to watch and one is continually intrigued by the historical parallels created by the film along the way. However, the film ultimately stays at the level of an elegant period piece that is eye-catching, but emotionally unsatisfying overall.

There are scenes of implied marital rape and a brief lesbian depiction, which make the film quite unsuitable for viewing by the young. The film is slow to devel-

op, but there are rich, detailed period settings which always hold attention. Given Georgiana's well-known rebellion against ignorant sexism and her endorsement of feminist attitudes and ways of thinking, it remains intriguing as to what this movie might have been like had it been directed by a woman.

* Peter W Sheehan is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Strong on stunts and a grim star

Director Mathieu Kassowitz has expressed, very strongly, his disapproval of this version of his film.

What remains is strong on locations, stunts and special effects - these locations range from an over-populated Russia, to the wilds of Mongolia and a Shangri-La convent, to Vladivostok.

The reason for the locations is that the hero, a disillusioned mercenary now seen as a terrorist, is blackmailed into bringing a special woman, a genetically engineered creation who is to be proclaimed as a new messiah and to give credence (and financial gain) to a new religion. One of the problems is that the mercenary is played, as much he did in Pitch Black, xXx, The Chronicles of Riddick, by a grim Vin Diesel. It is the supporting cast which is most interesting: Charlotte Rampling doing the cold, haughty and cutting thing as the exploitative high priestess of the new religion, and, best of all, Michelle Yeoh as Sister Rebecca who is the demure guardian of the young woman.

*Fr Peter Malone MSC directs the film desk of SIGNIS: the World Association of Catholic Communicators, and is an associate of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Babylon AD
Starring Vin Diesel, Melanie Thierry, Charlotte Rampling and Michelle Yeoh. Directed by Mathieu Kassowitz. 90 mins. M (action violence and coarse language). 90 mins. Reviewer: Fr Peter Malone MSC*.

It's unreal fun for all ages

Parents and grandparents looking for entertainment for the youngsters that isn't mind-numbingly witless for anyone over 13 should bend the knee in gratitude to the Disney Organisation.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua is a treat - a brilliant blend of live action and computer graphics that engrosses the young audience and happily entertains their elders.

Leaving the cinema after a preview screening, one youngster was heard to ask, "Dad, can we get that on DVD?," which rather sets the seal on the film's appeal to children.

Adults will find much to admire in its general quality of film-making, particularly the seamless blend of reality and animation that almost defies analysis.

For example, just as you getting used to the movie's little heroine, Chloe, and her four-footed friends being real canines whose mouths move as they talk (vastly better than the clumsy cartooning that gave voice to television's Mr Ed or the cinema's talking mule, Francis, but essentially the same technique), along

Beverly Hills Chihuahua.
Starring Piper Perabo, Manolo Cardona, Jamie Lee Curtis and the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia, Placido Domingo. Directed by Raja Gosnell. 91 mins. G. Reviewer: Jim Murphy*.

come two wonderful characters.

You realise the sly rat confidence trickster and his iguana sidekick must have been created entirely in the computer. Yet they seem just as real as any of the dogs or humans.

Enjoyment of the technical wizardry is a big part of the film's appeal, but there is also much to like in the entertaining script by Analisa Labianco and Jeff Bushell, which pokes fun at wealthy LA dames who take their pet dogs to hair stylists and dress them in hats, coats and even Italian leather booties.

Chloe (voiced by Drew Barrymore) is one such pampered pooch, whose owner Viv (Jamie Lee Curtis) also drapes her in a necklace with diamonds by Harry Winston



Chloe... pampered pooch on the run.

and drenches her with Chanel No 5.

Viv leaves for Europe but doesn't take Chloe along ("you hate Berlin"), leaving her instead in the care of her niece Rachel (Piper Perabo).

When Rachel takes Chloe across the Mexican border, the chihuahua gets loose and is captured by an underworld type who stages illegal dog fights.

Rescued by Delgado, a former police German Shepherd (voice of Andy Garcia), Chloe then embarks on a series of lively adventures in a chase across Mexico that includes an encounter with the aforesaid rat and iguana, who are intent on separating Chloe from her valuable diamonds.

The chase also takes her to the ruins of the Aztec civilisation, where an avuncular elder

of her breed, Montezuma (operatic star Placido Domingo), opens her eyes to her origins and tells her that chihuahuas are much more than toys and fashion accessories.

"We are a proud breed. We may be tiny but we are mighty," he says, and he encourages Chloe to "find your bark".

Diversity, tolerance and loyalty are other qualities encouraged by this delightful movie that is directed by Raja Gosnell (Yours, Mine and Ours and Scooby Doo) with great professional skill and which ends with a plea for responsible pet ownership.

It ticks every box for children's fare.

*Jim Murphy is an associate of the Australian Catholic Film Office.

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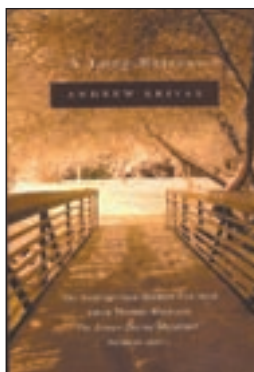
A Long Retreat by Andrew Krivak. Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008, 324 pages, rrp \$29.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Sometimes, due to the pressure of approaching deadlines, a reviewer might be tempted to flip through a book in a desultory way making some quick judgments before hitting the keyboard. Not anyone who writes for Catholic Voice, I hasten to add! However this strategy would be wildly inappropriate in this case.

A Long Retreat merits and will repay careful attention. Essentially it is a memoir of a young man seeking his true vocation. After graduating from college he tries a number of occupations and then in 1990 he enters the Jesuits in New York.

The book's title refers to the mandatory 30-day retreat, made by all candidates, on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius the founder of the Jesuits. In a sense this long retreat encompasses the entire period of nearly eight years that Krivak remained with the Jesuits.

In no way does he regard this as a withdrawal from life and love. Rather he embraces the oppor-



tunities given him, submits to the judgments of his superiors and explores his own ethnic ancestry in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

All the time he is focused on deepening his prayer life, doing well at his studies and moving along to his goal of priesthood.

He writes with great affection of his Jesuit brothers. His description of the challenges in community life is authentic. There is great wisdom in the advice he receives from directors who detect

his ambivalence about religious life before he does. As always he takes everything to prayer and is peaceful about his decision to leave. He realises that God is calling him to fruitfulness in a different place.

Several times he says, after times of discernment, "I feel changed". This must surely resonate with all who, as we say in the Good Friday liturgy, "seek the truth with sincerity".

I loved this beautifully written memoir for its unflinching honesty and its deep insights. Krivak is a linguist and a poet, and it shows. One can only wish him well in the next grace-filled era.

Tempting distractions

Good Night & God Bless, Vol 1, by Trish Clark. Paratus Press, 2008, 264pp, rrp \$29.95. Reviewer: Geoff Orchison.

If you hunger to renew acquaintance with the sights of Europe, then this book is probably one to avoid.

Not because of any inadequacy, in fact quite the opposite. The temptations it offers are so alluring as to be rather distracting.

Author Trish Clark, a Brisbane-born mother of five, has put her experience as owner of a travel marketing business to good use.

Back in June 1970 on a working holiday she found the youth hostel she had planned to stay in in Rome was fully booked.

She was directed, for her somewhat alarmingly, to a nearby convent that took paying guests.

Her experience was so appealing she went back more than 30 years later, and so arose this wonderfully descriptive travel guide which markets itself quaintly as for "the pious and the curious alike."

Volume 1 covers Italy, Australia and the Czech Republic; it will be followed next year by a similar guide to accommodation in convents, monasteries and abbeys in France, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Not that the guide stops at accommodation tips. It is rather more a book for people who enjoy immersing themselves in the local scene while on their travels.

So, if you want to know where to get a facial by a nun in an Austrian health spa, or which table then Cardinal Ratzinger frequented at Cantina Tirolese, or where to find the monastery brewery near Prague Castle, this is the book for you.

But, I did warn you, don't pick it up unless you have time to spare.

E-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au

Women: positive agents for change

Maid In God's Image: In Search of the Unruly Women by Verena Wright. Darton, Longman and Todd, 2008, 132pp, rrp \$38.95. Reviewer: Janet Moyle.

Verena Wright has been a lecturer in English literature and women's studies. She is now a writer, commentator and radio presenter. Finally she has got around to writing a book and it's been worth waiting for. It is about feminine spirituality. It is the intriguing sub-title In Search of the Unruly Woman that invites a serious look. More of that within.

Wright engages with a variety of texts in literature, film and the gospels to explore the reasons for the repression of the female experience. She deconstructs some iconic images of God, such as in Rembrandt's Return of the Prodigal Son, in a startling way. She poses questions about the symbolic devices used in Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ. She enlarges on archetypes of the feminine and believes that the theology of woman might well be concerned with image, gender and value.

Wright writes thoughtfully and non-aggressively. She brings a depth of experience to her premise that women are positive agents for resistance and change. The voices of unruly women across cultures and centuries are magnified.

She has an in-depth knowledge of Scripture. She quotes Genesis 1 when she says it was God's choice to make humankind as a two-sex species. She examines Jesus' attitude to women and defines how he challenges people to a new way of understanding life in its fullness. This is an important book. It would be a valuable text for all engaged in gender and religion studies. For the rest of us, who yearn for the prophetic voice of women to be heard more clearly in our beloved Church, it informs, clarifies and focuses the issues.

Powerful presence

Celtic Prayers and Reflections by Jenny Child. Dublin: The Columbia Press, 2008, pb, 112 pp. rrp \$21.95. Reviewer: Margaret Ryan.

Jenny Child is a woman very conscious of God's powerful presence in ordinary and times.

Her short poems are heartfelt communications of responses to her life situations and were inspired by her visits to Lindisfarne Island, where the Celtic saints Adrian and Cuthbert spent lives of service.

Most poems are heavily based on traditional scriptural language and prayers (eg, St Patrick's breastplate). At times potential originality is constrained by her desire to use rhyme.

The book contains prayers for different times of the day and year, for special intentions (eg, perseverance and forgiveness) while others emerge from aspects of creation.



Books

Waiting for the Lord

Advent / Christmas Resources

The CEO Library holds a good collection of DVDs, videos, books, and music for

Advent and Christmas. Listings of resources may be found in the library's online catalogue. Click the Advanced Search tab and choose Subject search. Type: Advent, Christmas, or Jesus Christ - Nativity.

DVDs

Jesus of Nazareth Part 1: The Awaited Messiah (30 min, ages 10 - adult).

Presents the early gospel incidents based on the most part on Luke's account - the betrothal of Mary and Joseph, the Annunciation, the Visitation to Elizabeth, the birth of John, and Joseph's dream.

Discover the Church Year: A Year with the Lord, Film 2. (15min, ages 8-13).

Student narrators outline events of the Church year in this Australian-produced program as depicted in the life of Jesus. Effective graphical rings are used to point out the cycle of the Church year, and the narrator explains each phase, eg., Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time. The narrator emphasises the Church year sets up a series of appointments with the Lord when he offers his grace to us.

VHS VIDEOS

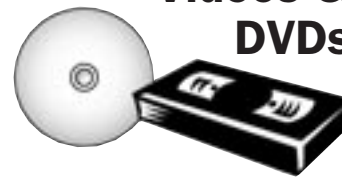
Waiting Time (20 min, ages 5-10).

Presents the themes of light, peace, and life. These themes highlight what our Waiting Time means as we prepare during Advent for the coming of Christ into our hearts and homes.

Advent (Celebrating the season series) (12 min, notes, ages 7 -13).

Using the four candles of the Advent wreath as the focus, this video examines how Advent is made up of waiting, kindness, joy and peace. Children tell how they find these qualities in their lives, as well as in the people they remember from the Scriptures. Other Advent activities are also shown,

Videos & DVDs



Advent : A Time To Hope (20 min, adults).

Invites parents to discover the ways they celebrate Advent in everyday life. Encourages them to develop a different mindset for the activities they are already doing. Explores the spirituality present in such actions as Christmas shopping and card writing, and the "hoping" that is inherent to parenthood, while encouraging families to focus their attention on the coming of Christ in the world today.

SOUND RECORDINGS

Carey Landry & Carol Jean Kinghorn. How Beautiful is the Child: Music for Advent and Christmas (1 CD & Music book, ages 8-12).

A compilation of 14 songs for children to suit the themes of Advent and Christmas.

ELECTRONIC

Symbols of Advent (1 CD-ROM, ages 12-adult).

The main scriptural Advent symbols are presented in colourful illustrations, with an interpretation of each, and the references for finding them in the Sunday Advent readings. There is also a description and explanation of the Advent Wreath and the Jesse Tree - traditional forms of Advent decoration.

Library Online Catalogue located as a link on CEO website <http://ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/> and option: CG Online.

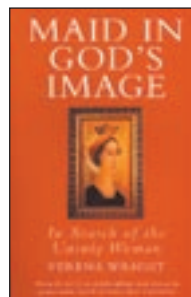
Parishioners may borrow resources from the Catholic Education Office Library for a small annual membership fee. The library holds an extensive collection of DVDs, VHS videos, sound recordings and books for all ages.

The library is in the Rheinberger Centre, corner of Weston & Loch streets, Yarralumla. Telephone: 6163 4350.

Fax: 6163 4351.

E-mail:

library@ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au
- Dennis Granlund (librarian)



Surprisingly simple

Surprised by Canon Law Volume 2 by P Vere and M Trueman. Servant Books, 2007, rrp \$21.95. Reviewer: J Wellspring

Most people probably missed Surprised by Canon Law Volume I so Volume II retains the element of surprise. This book of only 142 pages consists of 13 chapters relating to different areas of Church life. Each chapter has a question-answer format. Each question is answered by exploring the law of the Church with some 100 questions considered.

The questions refer to many current issues in the life of the Church, eg, How long are priests assigned to a parish? Who owns Church property? What is a diocesan ecumenical commission? What is an association of the faithful?

Such questions are not merely of passing interest but touch on the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups in the Church and the ordering of ecclesial life. This work makes a positive contribution to understanding the law of the Church. It is written in simple, straight-forward English for laity and clergy alike.

WODEN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

Advent's just around the corner, and we have purple (and pink, and white) candles in stock for Advent wreaths, as well as a great range of calendars, cards and gifts to suit most tastes (and pockets!), nativity sets and other super seasonal items, books and toys for kids, stocking fillers, etc. Looking forward to Christmas!

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Classifieds

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BROULEE - 2 bedroom beach cottage, fully equipped. Expansive coastal and sea views and short stroll to beaches. See "Beach Cottage" in www.broulee-beachhouse.com or telephone 0417 193 736

BROULEE - Spectacular views near beach, 6-bedroom 3-bathroom house newly renovated. Telephone 6257 1222 www.brouleebeachhouse.com

MOLLYMOOK - Birchgrove Apartments. 200m to beach, water view, lovely quiet location opposite reserve. Fully self contained 2 BR, lock up garage and plenty of extra parking and easy walk to Golf Club and Ulladulla shops. Please phone Craig or Kathy 0428 318 156 or 6230 3034.

NAROOMA - Lovely 2-bedroom holiday unit, ensuite and shower/ laundry, TV, DVD, M/W, garage. Easy walk to CBD, golf, close to beach, views. Discount Catholic Voice readers. Ray, telephone 6281 0887.

PAMBULA BEACH - Ocean Reach. Two stunning, beach front 3 bdr, 3 storey, family owned units, directly overlooking Pambula Surf Beach. Family friendly, luxury accommodation with direct beach access, roof top BBQ and ocean views from every room! Close to shops, swimming pool, river mouth, skate park, Merimbula airport, golf courses and Lumen Christi Catholic College. Sensational school holiday rates for families or perfect for that weekend retreat or golfing getaway. E-mail Sophie at oceanreach.pambula@bigpond.com or telephone 6458 7221.

TOMAKIN - Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, games room, sleeps 8-10, close to shop, beach and boat ramp, VCR, DVD, m'wave, d'washer, BBQ, great for 2 families. Book with owner and save. Telephone 6231 2026.

TUROSS HEAD - "Ella May Holiday Flats". Renovated 2br, walk to beach. Fully equipped. Avail all year \$350-\$800 per week, weekends available. Telephone 0414 597 619 or 6161 7793.

To Let - Sydney

BUDGET accommodation in student housing in Glebe close to city. Families welcome. Book a house or a room. 29 November 2008 to 8 February 2009. Email: office@terraces.com.au Telephone 9660 6762 www.terraces.com.au

STORMANSTON HOUSE - 27 McLaren Street, North Sydney. Restful and secure accommodation operated by the Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney. Situated in the heart of North Sydney and a short distance to the City. Rooms available with ensuite facility. Continental breakfast, tea/ coffee making facilities and television. Separate lounge/ dining room, kitchen and laundry. Private off-street parking. Telephone 0418 650 661, e-mail nsstorm@tpg.com.au

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NOOSA - Stylish 2bdm fsc townhouses by river and cafes. R/c aircon, tennis court, BBQ, heated pools/spas, DVD, VCR and video library, stereo, linen, modern facilities. Book with owners and save. For brochure, telephone (07) 3289 7178.

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DESK 1040x570 two drawers \$25. 4-channel stereo amplifier \$40. Exercise walking machine \$90. Friedland door chime unit electric \$30. Mirror 600x450 octagonal bevel edge \$30. TV or VCR from \$30. John, telephone 6286 4454 anytime.

KENWOOD chef food mixer from \$100, 6 months warranty. Will buy kenwood bowls etc. Sales, repairs and parts for TV

microwave etc. Low prices with warranty, trade-in or free removal. John 6286 4454 anytime.

VARIETY of garden manure for sale free delivery in the Canberra area \$5 a bag, telephone Mark 6386 3694 or 0427 053 988.

Personal

CARING 36-year-old male N/S S/D GSOH. Catholic, family orientated, dinner with friends, movies, music, coffee. Seeks similar lady 28-36 children no objection. Will answer all replies. E-mail macca-boogie@yahoo.com.au or telephone mobile 0421 540 149.

Prayers

PRAYER to the Blessed Virgin. O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to help me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you (3 times). Holy Mary I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 days. E M B.

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Position Vacant

Holy Spirit Parish, Canberra is seeking an interested person to participate in the ongoing growth of this new, rapidly growing, suburban parish community. Possible full time/part time involvement could include some of the following areas:

- home visitation
- counselling
- supporting individuals in need – youth and seniors
- parish liturgy
- adult education
- social justice outreach
- some computer basic skills are necessary

Expressions of interest are invited.

Please contact:

Father Mark Croker PP
23 Freda Bennett Circuit Nicholls ACT 2913 or
hols.gungahlin@cg.catholic.org.au

Applications close 30 November 2008

Catholic Voice Classifieds cost \$6.60 for the first 30 words, and \$1.65 for each 6 words after that. To place a photograph with your advertisement, costs only an extra \$16.50. Great for your Real Estate For Sale ads. Classies deadline is 15th of every month.

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Have you subscribed to our new e-news bulletin? If not, go to www.cg.catholic.org.au It's free!

Coming Events

AMICUS - Support & friendship/ social group for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics regular activities on second and fourth weekends. New members welcome. Inquiries: Len, telephone 6299 6606; Pat 6292 1631, Brian 6291 7402.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - St. John the Apostle Parish, Kippax. Six session program to assist Catholics who have lost touch with a worshipping community and are seeking to renew their faith. Begins 16 October. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6254 3236.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE - Led by St Caecilia's Choir, 7.30pm, Sunday, 7 December, at Chapel of St John the Evangelist, Daley Road, ANU. Featuring carols for choir and congregation with organ, trumpet, timpani, Gregorian chant, renaissance polyphony and instrumental solos. Inquiries: Maria Henry, telephone 6249 6278 or e-mail mariamhenry@bigpond.com

COURAGE CANBERRA - Group for those experiencing same-sex attraction and desiring to live sacramental life of the Church. Confidentiality assured. Inquiries: Telephone 6254 9540, e-mail couragecanberra@hotmail.com

CURSILLO - Ultreyas: Southside Corpus Christi Parish Centre, Gowrie, 8pm, Tuesday, 25 November. Northside Marian Hall, St Matthew's Church, Page, 8pm, Thursday, 27 November. All welcome.

FERRY CRUISE - Sunday, 14 December. With Christmas carols and supper at Hall. FEPCOW fundraiser. Tickets, inquiries: John, telephone 6286 4454.

INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION - Workshop by American Trappist monk from Cistercian community in Colorado, Fr William Meninger OCSO. 10am-3pm, Saturday, 15 November, St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah. Workshop continues Sunday, 16 November. All welcome; \$10 donation. Inquiries: Peter Ahern peter.ahern@bigpond.com

MEDITATION ON JESUS - In style of Fr Gilbert Carlo, meets Thursdays 7.30pm, St Thomas the Apostle, Kambah. Inquiries: Trish Jarzynski, telephone 6231 8468.

ONE GOD IN A DIVIDED WORLD - St Thomas More's Forum. 7.30pm-9pm, 12 November, St Thomas More Hall, 30 White Cres, Campbell. Presenters Rabbi John Levi, Associate Prof Anne Hunt and Prof Ismail Albayrak. The forum is part of a series being held in Australian cities to celebrate the centenary of the Catenian Association. Entry \$10, and \$3 for students and concession card holders.

PRAYER IN THE CRYPT - Lectio Divina, a contemplative praying of Scriptures, 2.30pm-

3.30pm each Thursday, in crypt of St Christopher's Cathedral. Inquiries: Parish Office, telephone 6295 9555 or e-mail stchris@velocitynet.com.au

RAPHAELS - Singles social group for Catholics and Christian-minded people, aged 24-40. Meet people for social activities, including dinner, movie, social sport, coffee and Mass every two months. Inquiries: Telephone 0401 918 717, www.catholic-socialgroup.com, e-mail raphs-group@yahoo.com.au

RECONNECT PROGRAM - Small group program beginning soon for inactive Catholics who haven't been to Mass for a while. St Matthew's, Page. Inquiries: Elspeth, telephone 6278 6833[h], Mary 6254 1827[w].

SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA - 6.15pm, Thursday, 13 November. Rosary and Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Curtin, followed by dinner.

SCHOOL FETE - St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga. 11am-3pm, 8 November. Stalls, cakes, craft, plants, food, second-hand goods, sideshow alley, chocolate wheel. St John Vianney Idol will be held. Inquiries: Telephone 6288 2383, website www.sjv.cg.catholic.edu.au/

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST - Disciples of Jesus women's breakfast, 8.45am, Saturday, 29 November, Rheinberger Centre, Loch St, Yarralumla. Cost \$13. Guest speaker Karen Flood, theme Advent. Inquiries: Karen Kirk, telephone 6231 2026

Written entries are invited for the December issue to: Catholic Voice, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601, or e-mail ed.voice@cg.catholic.org.au by Monday, 17 November. Entries which are accepted for this section are free, courtesy of sponsorship by the Catholic Development Fund.

Monk on contemplative prayer

An American Trappist monk, who takes a limited time out from his monastic life each year to travel the world and teach about contemplative prayer, will visit Canberra this month.

With graduate studies from Seattle University, Harvard Divinity School and Boston University, Fr William Meninger OCSO has been leading workshops on contemplative meditation or centering prayer, since 1974. He limits his time travelling for fear he might lose his own monastic orientation while sharing it with others.

On Saturday, 15 November, during a workshop from 10am to 3pm at St Benedict's church in Narrabundah, Fr Meninger will speak on the topic "The Method of Contemplative Prayer according to The Cloud of Unknowing".

He will introduce the concept and practice of contemplative meditation.

On Sunday, 16 November, he will continue the workshop at the Greg Collins Room next to the parish church at Narrabundah with an emphasis on "The Process of Forgiveness".

Anyone is welcome to attend the sessions, although lunch is not provided.

A donation of \$10 will be requested to help assist Fr Meninger with

travelling expenses.

For more information on Fr Meninger, visit www.contemplativeprayer.net or for inquiries about the workshops, e-mail peter.ahern@bigpond.com




FACTS ON FUNERALS

M.H. O'Rourke is still Australian owned.

In recent times, the funeral industry has seen many changes. Most notably, the acquisition of several large funeral parlors by American owned interests. This has caused some concern for people and it's why we are so often asked if our company is Australian owned. The answer is an unequivocal YES. In fact, M.H. O'Rourke was established in the Canberra region in 1900 and the family who owns it has been in the Australian funeral industry since the 1850's. Unlike some of our major competitors, we have not sold out to an overseas company. Nor do we intend to. As a family owned Australian business, we take great pride in our historical roots and ties to the community. We provide a complete range of funeral services, 24 hours a day, everyday of the year. Additionally, we offer pre-paid and prearranged "Total Care" funeral plans

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There is much to celebrate, treasure and support about the global mission activity of the people and faith communities which make up the Catholic Church throughout the world.

It is a unique and effective network that is present in most countries with access to even more and called to bring the good news and opportunities to enhance life to others. We had the pleasure of being first hand witnesses to its effectiveness recently with WYD.

A network that knows Christ's global mission involves everyone: whether with prayer or financial support; involvement in undertaking mission near or far; or potentially as a beneficiary of all Christ would offer.

October saw parishes and schools across the Archdiocese join with all other dioceses to support mission, missionaries and communities with prayer and funds to assist Catholic Mission's many works throughout the world including Australia.

Bishop Pat Power shared his experiences and perspectives of mission and pilgrimage at this year's Mission Mass involving students and teachers from across the Archdiocese.

The needs and concerns are many and funds ever scarce. Help Catholic Mission in their work of enabling mission. Contact us for more information or to assist in this important work.

God bless
Deacon Joe Blackwell

The Rheinberger Centre,
P O Box 7174,
Yarralumla 2600.
e-mail:
asst.missions@cg.catholic.org.au
Telephone 6163 4321

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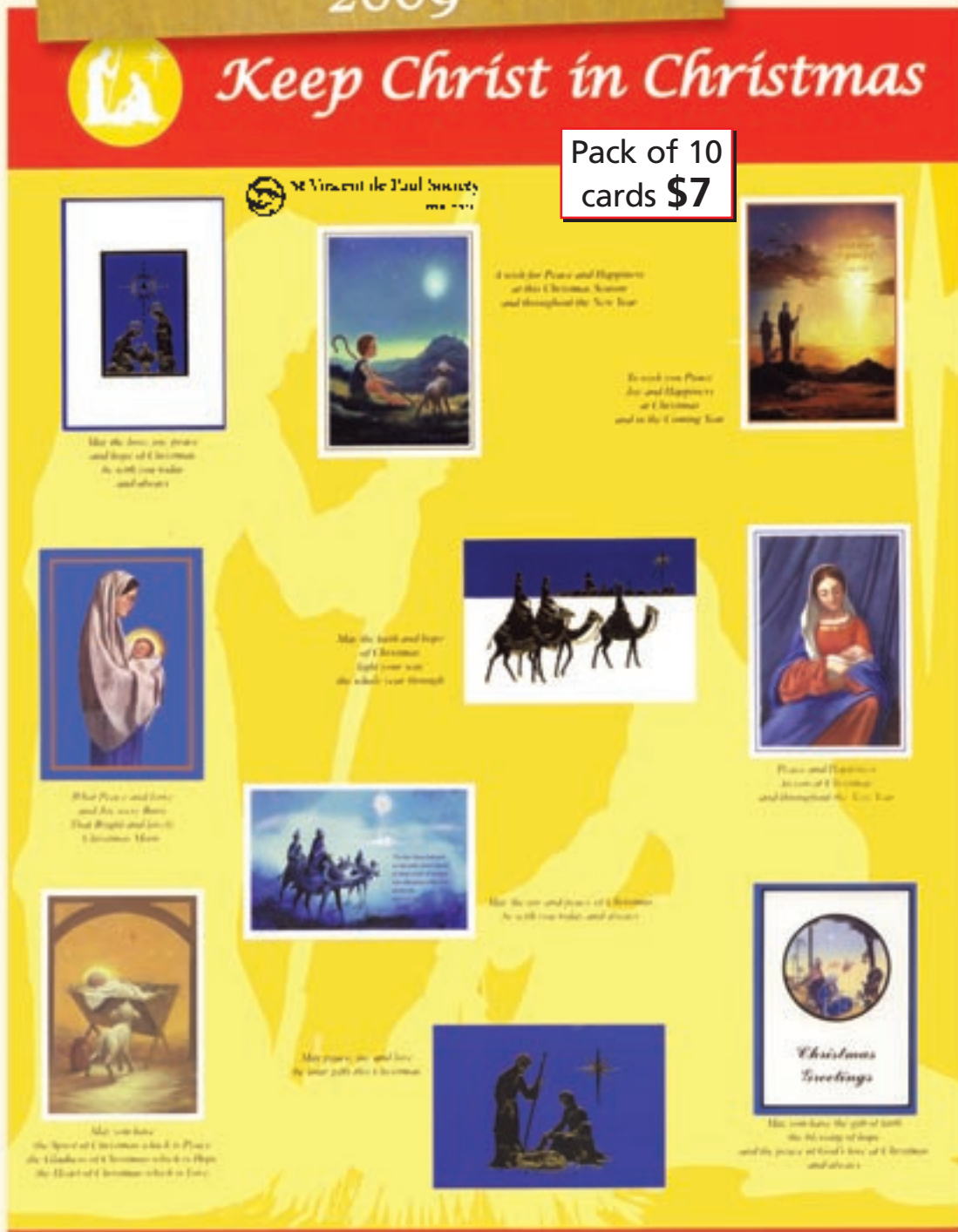
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