



THE CATECHIST NEWSLETTER

Dearest Catechists,

It with great excitement and sadness that I notify you of an offer that I've taken up as a teacher at St Francis Xavier's, Florey, ACT. As this new work begins next term, I will be finishing up with CCD this coming Friday, October 4. However, I'll be at the end of year Masses, to farewell you all more formally. I'm hoping a replacement for this position will be in place by early next year.

Recently, I was talking to one of our rural catechists about the wonderful work that she is doing. In the midst of our conversation, it was mentioned that her inspiration for continuing this ministry was the conversion of a classroom student. This particular girl came from a very troubled, non religious family and for some reason the parents wanted the child to go to scripture.

The student began to attend scripture, and was effected by what was being taught, in particular the stories from the bible. Our amazing catechist told me how the child would come to class and ask about stories to do with courage, hope, faith etc. Apparently, there was a deep hunger to know the truth. Some time later, after she had moved onto secondary school, our catechist ran into the student in town. The student, very excitedly, told her that as a result of scripture, she had decided to follow Jesus. Jesus had changed her life and was giving her hope, courage and strength.

Perhaps your experience of teaching scripture isn't as dramatic as this one, however, you are making a difference. A significant difference in young lives. To assist you in this difference that you are making, can I encourage you to find a prayer partner to pray for you? It maybe a simple prayer for you on the day you are catechising, or maybe it's asking them to go to an extra Mass or pray a rosary. Whatever it is, this sort of support makes a difference. Also, if your local Priest hasn't had the chance to visit, invite them along. They are very supportive and would most likely be keen to attend.

As we move toward the end of the year, can I remind you to keep your classes focused and working. If there are challenges, the school, Priest or myself are available to assist. There are strong levels of support set up to care for you. It seems, almost daily, that we are bombarded with social issues that appear to be undermining the Christian faith we are teaching. Again, please ask for support, if this is troubling you.

Lastly, for NSW catechists, if you haven't had the chance to carry out the catechist self reflection, this needs to be completed before the end of the year.

Thanks again for all you that you are doing for the Gospel.

Blessings,



Let the little children come to me (Jesus)



St John the Evangelist Chapel, ANU



Deacon Matt Ransom

In This Mailout

Catechist Self Reflection - primarily for NSW catechists to assist in your teaching.

Christmas Teaching Resources - Yes, it is getting closer to that time of year again! You will find a range of useful resources for your students.

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



To our new volunteers

Micheal McAppion - Pearce, ACT

Marian Churchward - Merimbula

End of Year Masses

Queanbeyan - **Nov 22** @ 12pm
(date change!)

Young - Nov 27 @ 12pm

Cooma - Dec 1 @ 10am

Evatt, ACT - Dec 3 @ **6pm**
(time change!)

Merimbula - Dec 8 @ 10am

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

From Pope Francis

God Forgets Our Sins

Pope Francis said on Sunday that God forgets sins absolved within the confessional. "How do you defeat evil? Accepting God's forgiveness ... It happens every time we go to confession; there we receive the love of the Father who overcomes our sin. It is no longer there, God forgets it," Pope Francis said in his Angelus message Sept. 15.

"God, when He forgives, loses His memory. He forgets our sins, forgets. God is so good with us," he added in a departure from his prepared remarks.

In the sacrament of confession, God completely erases the evil confessed

making one new inside, reborn in joy, Pope Francis explained. "Brothers and sisters, have courage. With God, no sin has the last word," the pope said.

Pope Francis reflected upon Sunday's Gospel from Luke in which the Pharisees complain that Jesus "welcomes sinners and eats with them."

"Jesus 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' This is what happens to us, in every Mass, in every church: Jesus is happy to welcome us to his table, where he offers Himself for us," Pope Francis said. "It is a phrase that we could write on the doors of our churches: 'Here Jesus welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.'"

(www.catholicnewsagency.com)

The 2020 Plenary Council

More than 222,000 people participated in listening and dialogue encounters and contributed 17,457 submissions during the first stage of preparation for the Australian Plenary Council plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Working With Children Check's

Throughout the year your Children's Check may need to be renewed. Could you please notify us when this occurs and remember that you must not work with Children unless the details are current.



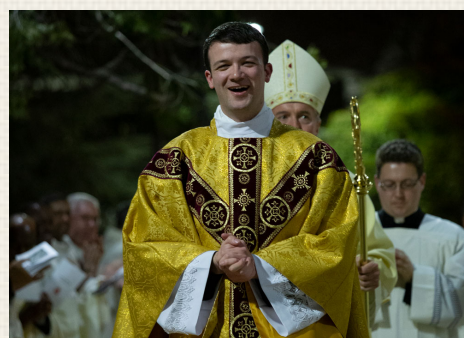
Great Websites

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

CATHOLIC VOICE

www.catholicvoice.org.au

Our very own Catholic resource



Welcome to our newest Archdiocesan Priest, Fr Alex Osborne

Some Humour

"Some movie stars wear their sunglasses even in church. They're afraid God might recognise them and ask for autographs."

— Fred Allen

