

From the Interim Manager



Dear friends of the Catholic Enquiry Centre,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, we greet you with blessings of Mary's son Jesus Christ!

This time reminds us of the Catholic teaching that Mary's body was

taken up to heaven by the power of her Son. In the Apostolic Constitution, *MUNIFICENTISSIMUS DEUS, Defining the Dogma of the Assumption* on 1 November 1950, Pope Pius XII declared:

“(44) ... by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

The Pope stated in the same document that: “(38) All these proofs and considerations of the holy Fathers and the theologians are based upon the Sacred Writings as their ultimate foundation.”

For ordinary Catholics, our verification of the Assumption can be found in the events of Mary's many apparitions which the Church has declared worthy of belief.

Each year, millions of pilgrims visit the Shrines of Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe and more recently, Chestochowa. In my younger days, on my way back from World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, my fellow delegate and I detoured from our train journey and joined other pilgrims in the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. One of the things that struck me at the location was the many canes that were left at the 'Grotto' of Our Lady by healed pilgrims. The other experience that touched me was the 'Living Rosary' in the evening that made me feel like our mother Mary was praying among us.

In many countries where the majority of the population is Catholic, Marian feasts are celebrated with beautiful flowers and colourful costumes. In Australia, the Synod of Bishops

in 1844 placed Australia under the patronage of 'Mary Help of Christians', a decision subsequently approved by the Holy See and reaffirmed by the Bishops of Australia in 1988 during the bi-centenary of European settlement.

Through the influence of new migrants, several parishes now organise 'Block Rosary' where a statue of Mary is taken into homes and the rosary is prayed. Also, a growing number of parishes have a regular prayer novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (Help) and more parishes now have a Legion of Mary Praesidium (group).

In our own families, how are we influenced by Mary's Assumption into heaven? Do we pray the rosary? Do we tell stories to our children and grandchildren about Mary and Jesus? Do we model Mary and Joseph in our parenting and in our relationship with our spouse?

In our current world, it seems trendy for people to say they are atheists. In fact, the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2011 reported that just under 4.8 million (22% of Australians) chose the option 'No religion' in their census forms. This is just 3% lower than Catholics (25%).

As the CEC continues to serve the Catholic Church through the dissemination of books, pamphlets and the publication of e-newsletters, audio and video productions, your generous donation and promotion of the works of the CEC is highly needed and much appreciated.

Incidentally, we are in the process of recruiting a National Director for the new National Centre for Evangelisation. This new National Centre, announced by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on 2nd June, will incorporate the Catholic Enquiry Centre. We hope to have a new Director appointed very soon.

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Australia, we thank you for your generosity in supporting our work of reaching out to those of no faith to come to know Jesus Christ and His message.

In Christ through Mary,

Roslyn Rajasingam
Interim Manager

Inspiration

Blessed Mother Teresa



Blessed Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Albania in 1910. Her mother was a pious and charitable woman who didn't neglect the poor in their neighbourhood. Her father owned a construction company and was also involved in politics. Her mother had a deep devotion to the Holy Rosary and the family prayed it together often.

Mother Teresa joined the Loreto sisters in 1928, attracted by their missionary work in India. After spending some time in Ireland learning English, she moved on to India. She took the name 'Teresa' after St Therese of Lisieux and her 'little way'. She taught in Calcutta where she saw firsthand the 'poorest of the poor' in the slums. Mother Teresa was a Loreto nun for 19 years.

In 1948 she left the Loreto order and established the Missionaries of Charity. Many of the novices who joined her were girls she had taught in school as a Loreto sister. She received the call to begin this new mission from God in 1946, whilst on a train journey to a retreat in Darjeeling. Christ wanted her to serve Him by living among the poorest of the poor and carrying Him to them: "How I long to enter their holes, their dark, unhappy homes. Be my fire of love among the very poor". It was a call she knew she couldn't refuse, nor did she want to refuse it; she wanted to go out and live among them. The name of her congregation means 'messengers of God's love to the outskirts'.

When asked once by an interviewer who her people are, she responded, "I belong to the whole world - and to Jesus. The people of the world are my people."

Blessed Mother Teresa will be canonized this year on 4th September, the eve of her Feast Day, 5th September.

PICTURE BY MANFRED FERRARI / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
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POST THIS COUPON TO: Catholic Enquiry Centre
PO Box 1758, Chatswood
NSW 2057 Australia

New Media

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is fortunate to work closely with the National Office for Evangelisation in equipping Catholics to reach out and evangelise those with no faith.

In recent months, we have developed new resources – audio, video, text – to help individuals around Australia learn more about the New Evangelisation and their Catholic faith. These are created and posted on the internet so that more people can access information and develop their skills for evangelising Australians.

AUDIO

The following audio recordings can now be accessed on the internet:

1. **Deepening Our Faith:** hear priests and bishops introduce the Compendium of The Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. **New Evangelisation:** hear keynote speakers of PROCLAIM 2012 Conference
3. **The Church's Unfolding Story:** explore the Church's history from earliest Christianity to after Vatican 2
4. **What do Catholics believe:** explore the belief of Catholics and their many traditions and practices

VIDEO

The following video series can be found on the internet through YouTube:

1. **Deepening Our Faith:** watch priests and bishops introduce the Compendium of The Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. **New Evangelisation:** watch informative videos on the New Evangelisation and its relevance to the current Catholic Church.

IMAGES and SOCIAL MEDIA PICTURES

Inspirational and valuable quotes from Pope Francis sourced from writings such as *Amoris Laetitia* have been posted online on our Facebook page.

If you need help in accessing these resources, please call us on 1300 432 484 or email us: info@catholicenquiry.com.

Projects Desk



These last few months at the Catholic Enquiry Centre, we have been working on a number of projects, old and new, aimed at helping others discover more about our rich Catholic faith.

Several new resourcees have been developed to deliver the Good News to more people in a variety of ways. We've converted some of our existing

resources into audio and video productions that can be watched on the internet. We have worked hard to increase our presence on *Facebook*, producing many images and quotes that help tell people about the Gospel of our Lord.

We continue to engage with our CEC Companions through a web newsletter, *Companions Alive*, which provides resources and inspiration to share the Catholic faith with those around us. Companions are encouraged to let friends, family and others in their networks know about us and to contact us with any questions they may have about the Catholic faith. They also encourage others who are not Catholic to request from us a copy of *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*, which, thanks to the generous support of our donors, is provided to them at no cost.

Our internet advertising through Facebook and Google have seen promising responses, as we have worked on better ways to engage people with our ads.

Enquiries continue to come to us through phone and email, in relation to a diverse range of faith matters. We help many people with questions about Baptism, RCIA, marriage, and clarification on the Church's teachings.

As we commemorate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven, we continue to implore her as our mother and mother of the Church, for her intercession in all we do. Under her protection and guidance, may our work continue to be faithful to Jesus' call to "go make disciples".

In Christ,

Dr. Melissa Wood
Projects Officer

IN GRATITUDE

The Catholic Enquiry Centre continues to remember with great appreciation the precious contributions of all our donors. Your prayer and financial support makes possible our work of reaching out in faith to spread the Good News of Christ Australia wide.

As a measure of our sincere gratitude to all who support our work, please be assured of our regular prayers for you and your families. We hope and pray that your giving is richly rewarded, both in this life and in the life to come.

*"Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over, will be put
into your lap; for the measure you give
will be the measure you get back."*

Luke 6:38

YOUR WILL

The Catholic Enquiry Centre benefits from the generosity of many of our donors and supporters, even after they are no longer able to contribute on a regular basis. Those who have died and left a bequest to the Catholic Enquiry Centre give a gift which keeps on giving.

After meeting all ordinary obligations in your Will, you may consider a bequest supporting the Catholic evangelisation of our nation. The Catholic Enquiry Centre can supply a form of words for such an intention to your legal advisors.

COVER IMAGE: ASSUMPTION OF MARY: OUR HEAVENLY HOPE
BY LISA ANDREWS
OIL ON LINEN 99 CM X 66 CM
COLLECTION FRANCISCAN SISTERS TOR, TORONTO, OH USA

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AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE



"Mary, Queen of Families. Pray for us!"

SOURCE: POPE BENEDICT XVI. 'ON THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY',
GENERAL AUDIENCE, AUGUST 22, 2012

CELEBRATING OUR 58TH YEAR

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