

AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE



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From the Director



The work of evangelisation is the mission given to all by Jesus with his last words to “Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations...” (Matt 28: 19)

Mary, whose feast of the Assumption we mark, is the Mother of evangelisation. As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) “With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in the midst of the people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14) and thus made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost. She is the Mother of the Church which evangelizes, and without her we could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization”. (n284)

While the mandate to evangelise is given to all people, the Catholic Enquiry Centre, the organisation charged with promoting the faith as an outreach of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has a particular role in this. Since 1959 this work has been undertaken, and a significant number of people, bishops, staff and supporters, have been instrumental in introducing people to Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith.

I want to make special mention of the contribution of the late Bishop Michael Putney who was a great supporter of the Catholic Enquiry Centre. He passed away just after the last *Ausvangelist* went to print. Inspired by the example of his family, Bishop Putney took an interest in the work of this office from the time he was a young man and throughout his priestly and episcopal ministry. Over many months Bishop Putney lived his illness with grace and dignity, and witnessed to people all over the world the strength he gained from his relationship with God. May he rest in peace.

In late June I was invited to present to senior teachers and youth ministry coordinators in Catholic schools some of the resources available from the Catholic Enquiry Centre for sharing the faith, especially suitable for young teachers as well as parents and students.

Today many young people are growing up with little lived experience of the Catholic faith and culture.

Catholic schools are fulfilling a vital role in giving children an all-round education as well as an education in the faith. There are significant opportunities for parents to grow and learn more about what it means to be Catholic through being part of the parish-school community.

For parents with children in state schools the role of Catechists is vital. Faith-filled Catholics, young and old, share the faith and witness by their example what it means to follow Jesus.

In listening to stories of people involved in evangelisation around Australia, I have been reminded how fundamentally important parents, as well as priests, are in passing on the flame of faith. This flame of faith is lit by God's initiative.

We join with you, our donors and supporters, in praying for those who are yet to develop a relationship with Jesus, and that we might do what we can to share the great gift of faith we have received.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Marita Winters
Director
Catholic Enquiry Centre



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

FOR OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Your donation helps to provide a copy of *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* for someone who has indicated that they want to know more about Jesus Christ and his Church. We thank you for your ongoing support, in both spiritual and practical ways, for those who receive the information on the Catholic faith. Sharing the gift of faith is the best gift you can give.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

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Projects Desk



Sometimes there are enquiries that remind me of how privileged I am to answer enquiries about our faith. A couple of weeks ago an email arrived in my Inbox which contained a long and heartfelt

call for some guidance and direction. The email outlined a detailed account of a young man on an extraordinary faith journey. The correspondence began with an overview of the man's cultural and religious background noting an ancestral heritage of many generations. The writer then recounted aspects of his personal religious journey. His story begins in a small alternative Protestant

community through many twists and turns to his current membership of an Orthodox Church where he somewhat uneasily worships. I say uneasily as his reason for making contact with the Catholic Enquiry Centre is that, following much prayer and study, he had come to the conclusion that he needed to be in communion with Rome. The man recounted his great love for Orthodox liturgies and traditions and expressed some concern as to how his friends might react when he tells them of his decision to become a Catholic.

After a series of back and forth emails with the enquirer I got a real sense of the Lord calling this young man in a special way. He had expressed an interest in contemplative religious life and though our networks

I provided him with an appropriate contact. The Catholic Enquiry Centre takes pride in being able to assist people to navigate different stages of their faith journey. It is indeed a privilege to assist those who in seeking the Lord feel drawn into full communion with our Church.

As always thank you for your prayers and your financial support as both are vital to the continuation of the work of the Centre.

In Christ Jesus,

John Francis Collins
Catholic Enquiry Centre

Resources

FOR PARISHES

An RCIA resource for parishes. For parishes which have enquirers wanting to find out about the Catholic faith, please consider *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*.

A religious sister working in a parish, Victoria says: "I find the book very user friendly" while an Enquirer from Queensland says: "Thank you very much for your email and the book; it is really useful and a very easy read".

An RCIA Companion Manual has been prepared for those parishes who want to see how to use *Call and Response* within their RCIA framework.

To order a copy of *Call and Response*, visit our website, www.catholicenquiry.com/resources or call us on 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484).

FOR SCHOOLS

Do you ever have students who want to become Catholic because of what they see and experience in your school? Would you know what resource to give students to deepen their understanding of the faith? *Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* is just what you are after, an easy to read and understand resource for young Catholics wanting to know more about their faith or for students who are not Catholic but are interested in learning about the faith underpinning their school.

To order a copy of *Call and Response*, visit our website, www.catholicenquiry.com/resources or call us on 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484).

YOUR WILL

A significant number of Australians die without a Will. Our choices can make a difference in the world. We can choose to let our life's work continue for the good even after we have finished the journey. 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.

Inspiration



ST FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Helena Kowalska was born on August 25, 1905 in a small village west of Lodz, Poland. She was the third of ten children.

When she was almost twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow. The following year she received her religious habit and was given the name Sister Maria Faustina. In the 1930's, Sister Faustina received from God a message of mercy that she was told to spread throughout the world. She was asked to become a model of how to be merciful to

others and an instrument for reemphasizing God's plan of mercy for the world. It was not a glamorous prospect.

This poor and uneducated Polish nun wrote and suffered in secret, with only her spiritual director and some of her superiors aware that anything special was taking place in her life.

After her death in 1938, even her closest associates were amazed as they began to discover what great sufferings and deep mystical experiences had been given to this Sister of theirs, who had always been so cheerful and humble. She had taken deeply into her heart God's gospel command to "be merciful even as your heavenly Father is merciful" as well as her confessor's directive that she should act in such a way that

everyone who came in contact with her would go away joyful.

Sister Faustina's message is now being spread throughout the world; her diary, *Divine Mercy in my Soul*, has become the handbook for devotion to the Divine Mercy.

On the first Sunday after Easter in 2000 Pope John Paul II canonized Faustina as the first saint of the new millennium and declared that each Sunday following Easter, henceforth, be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. In April 2005 Pope John Paul died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday. Her Feast day is celebrated on 5 October.

Source: For more, see http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=510

Orders

BOOKS

Call and Response:	16.50
An Introduction to the Catholic Faith	
"Food for Life" Catholic Mission Cook Book	25.00

MULTIMEDIA

Christ Bearers - Understanding Baptism (DVD)	32.95
Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith - 4 disk set with 30 sessions of 10 minute duration (CD)	44.00
Pope Benedict's Encyclical - God Is Love <i>Deus Caritas Est</i> (CD)	24.20
The Mass - Images of Catholic Life (CD)	32.95

PAMPHLETS

About the Catholic Faith	0.25 ea
The Sacrament of Baptism	0.25 ea
The Sacrament of Marriage	0.25 ea



To place your order, call 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) or visit www.catholicenquiry.com to download an order form.

Your Support

Online donations are now being piloted. If you would like use this method to support the Catholic Enquiry Centre's mission of evangelisation, please call 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) or email info@catholicenquiry.com

TO AID THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN ITS MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

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