

AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

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From the Director



The baby who was promised to Mary by the angel and who must be named Jesus, according to Luke's account of the Annunciation, is the Son of God

who was born, died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day. As Christians we are called into a personal relationship with Jesus.

We are also called to share this faith with others, and so become evangelisers.

In recent years there has been much talk of the need for the Church to become more missionary, to embrace a 'new evangelisation'. During October there was a Synod of Bishops on the theme "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith."

I was privileged to spend the first week of the Synod in Rome, at the heart of the Church, listening to and reading the deliberations of the Bishops as well as attending Masses for the Opening of the Synod and the Commencement of the Year of Faith.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl in his summary of the Synod, said that the new evangelization is about sharing the Good News, involving many moments of evangelization: "One is the mission ad gentes, that is, the announcement of the Gospel to those who have never heard of Jesus Christ. Another moment in evangelization is the ongoing catechesis and growth in the faith that is a normal part of Christian development. Then there is also the New Evangelisation which involves pastoral outreach to those who have heard of Christ and begun once to practice the faith but for one reason or another discontinued."

At the Catholic Enquiry Centre we continue our ministry of fifty four years, outreaching to those who are not Catholic, and also to those who are Catholic but not sure of what they believe.

Social media has been identified as an important tool for reaching people beyond the Church. I have noted in past editions of *Ausvangelist* the fruit that Google and Facebook are bearing for our ministry. To date we have sent *Call and Response* to 897 enquirers (we hope to reach 1000 by year end!) Facebook and Google account for 411 or 45.8% of these enquiries.

In this Year of Faith Pope Benedict XVI is calling our attention and drawing us to recognize the vast digital ocean of opportunity using new media. In fact, his World Communications Day 2013 theme is "Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization".

Fr Thomas Rosica CSB, has made an important contribution to the ministry of social communications in the global Church, and he is featured in *Inspirations*.

At Christmas as we celebrate Jesus, the Son of God, coming to earth as man. We thank God for the gift of his Son, for the gift of the faith and for those who are yet to hear the message of the Gospel.

On behalf of the Catholic Enquiry Centre team I thank you, our partners in evangelisation, for your prayerful and financial support, and wish you and your loved ones a truly blessed Christmas.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

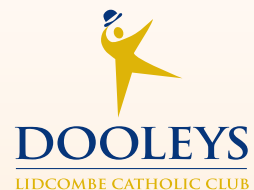
Marita Winters
Director
Catholic Enquiry Centre



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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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.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

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Projects Desk



As an office we respond to enquiries from non-Catholics seeking information about the Catholic faith and to questions from Catholics who have concerns related to specific issues about their faith-life.

Contemporary issues

as reported in the media have an impact on the questions that stream into the office via email, phone and mail. When news related to the Catholic Church is seen on television, heard on radio or read in newspapers the reports generate specific questions on the issue of concern.

The Victorian parliamentary inquiry into abuse within religious organisations is one such example. News reports on submissions to the enquiry have caused some Catholics to question their faith in the Church. In responding to questions on this issue the Catholic Enquiry Centre provides information to reassure those whose commitment to their faith is challenged by the media reports. On occasion we also play a part in the journey of healing undertaken by victims and their families.

Another issue is the reporting on a push by some people to have marriage redefined by including same-sex relationships. Publicity around this issue has provided an opportunity for staff from the Catholic Enquiry Centre to present sound responses to questions on this matter.

The sudden axing of the “Mass For You at Home” television broadcast by Southern Cross 10 in regional NSW is another issue of concern. After 30 years, this sudden change has been a source of significant distress for many viewers in the regions affected. In consultation with the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting we have responded to enquiries on this issue and we are looking forward to the transmission being re-established.

All the very best for Christmas, and thank you very much for your ongoing prayer and financial support throughout 2012.

John Francis Collins
Catholic Enquiry Centre

Resources

FOR PARISHES

Making non-Catholics feel welcome at Christmas

Persons who are not Catholic, as well as persons who are not regular participants in the life of the Church, will find themselves visiting parishes for Christmas Masses. How might they be made to feel welcome this Christmas?

- Invite people to introduce themselves to those around them at the beginning of Mass, and in particular to meet someone new.
- Explain that parishes are using a new translation of the Roman Missal, that the responses are different to what people might remember from the past and that visitors will be helped to use the right responses at the right times.
- Promote at the collection time the services both in the parishes and across the wider Church that are supported by monies raised.
- Encourage all people to find support and comfort in the child Jesus whose birth is the reason for Christmas.

FOR SCHOOLS

Ever tried Googling ‘Catholic faith’?

Hundreds of entries come up. Which one to choose? The Catholic Enquiry Centre (www.catholicenquiry.com) can help answer your personal questions about the Catholic faith, as well as direct your research for school assignments into matters about the faith. Bookmark and visit us often.

For young people wanting to strengthen their faith in God, consider ordering a copy of *Call and Response* via our website, www.catholicenquiry.com or call 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



Fr Thomas Rosica CSB
Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation.

Fr. Thomas Rosica is a priest of the Congregation of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers). He was born in 1959 in Rochester, New York [USA]. He holds advanced degrees in Theology and Sacred Scripture from Regis College in the Toronto School of Theology [1985], the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome [1991] and the École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem [1994].

Fr. Rosica has lectured in Sacred Scripture at Canadian Universities in Toronto, Windsor and London from 1990-2008. From 1994-2000 he served as Executive Director of the Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto.

In June 1999, he was appointed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as the Chief Executive Officer and National Director of the World Youth Day and the Papal Visit of Pope John Paul II that took place in Toronto during July, 2002.

On July 1, 2003, Fr. Rosica became the founding Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Television, Canada’s first national Catholic Television Network.

In October 2008, Fr. Rosica was appointed by the Vatican as the English-speaking

Media Attaché of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican that focused on “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” He fulfilled a similar role for the recent Synod of Bishops on “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.”

In February 2009, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Fr. Rosica a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. He is the author of several hundred articles and columns in numerous languages for various publications, including a three-year cycle of biblical reflections for the Zenit International News Service. He is a regular contributor to L’Osservatore Romano newspaper at the Vatican.

Orders

BOOKS

Call and Response:	16.50
An Introduction to the Catholic Faith	
Divorce in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00
"Food for Life" Catholic Mission Cook Book	25.00
Marriage in the Catholic Church FAQ's (No GST)	2.00

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
How to Pray the Rosary	0.45 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.

Cover image: Angel with the Superscription "I.N.R.I.", a copy by Giulio Cartari in Ponte Sant' Angelo, Rome. Photograph by Ramesh Weereratne

Your Support

Your generosity is helping to make Jesus Christ better known and loved by the people of our nation. Our work, in all its dimension, is directly dependent upon the financial support we receive. Thank you for your generosity. May you be blessed.

TO AID THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN ITS MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

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NSW 1585 Australia



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference