

From the Acting Director



I begin with some sad news. Our Director Marita Winters resigned from the position of Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre on the 18th September. I am sure you join with me in wishing Marita all the very best as she concentrates on studying theology and caring for her young children. Marita first took up the role of Director of the Catholic Enquiry

Centre in 2006. Regular readers of this column would feel as though they have got to know Marita through her photograph and her words during this time.

We do not normally mention it in Ausvangelist, but now is an appropriate time. Along with being the Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC), Marita was the founding Director of the National Office for Evangelisation (NOE) and the Executive Secretary of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation.

In all of these roles Marita served the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference with distinction. Marita's achievements include planning the 50-Year Celebrations for the Catholic Enquiry Centre and convening two major conferences for the National Office for Evangelisation: PROCLAIM 2012 and PROCLAIM 2014.

The task of filling the very big hole left by Marita's resignation has already begun and we are looking forward to the appointment of a new permanent Director in the first months of 2016.

In other personnel news, Roslyn Rajasingam is acting in the role of Projects Manager until a permanent Director has been appointed. Roslyn began working for CEC-NOE as a Projects Coordinator in February this year and she has brought many skills and lots of experience to CEC. You can find out a little more about Roslyn in the "From

the Projects Desk" column. Regular readers will know Jan O'Donoghue from her columns during the periods I have been acting director. Jan is still working one day a week for us as she moves towards retirement.

As I write, the whole world is recovering from the shock of seeing the graphic images of the many people who have been killed and injured in the terrorist attacks in Paris. There is talk of the third world war having already begun.

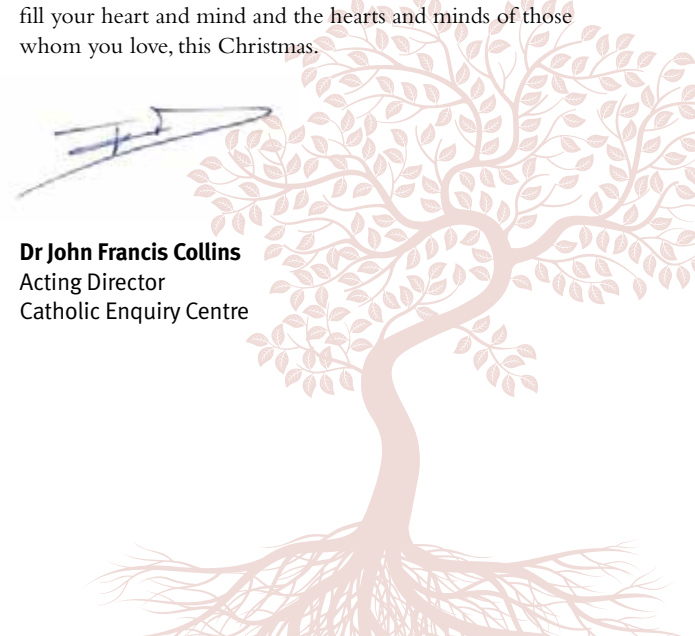
Our Holy Father Pope Francis, reminds us that "There are places in the world where doors should not be locked with a key." The Pope is referring to Catholic Churches. I suspect that he is inviting Catholics to not lock up their hearts and be willing to allow the others in, including our fellow Australians who follow Islam.

Let us pray this Christmas that the peace the world cannot give, God's peace made visible in a vulnerable baby in the arms of his mother, will permeate the hearts of everyone, no exceptions.

Thank you for your support during this year as I have had the privilege of serving in the role of Acting Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

May the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding fill your heart and mind and the hearts and minds of those whom you love, this Christmas.

Dr John Francis Collins
Acting Director
Catholic Enquiry Centre



Inspiration



Blessed Chiara Badano

On October 29 1971, in a small village in Italy, Chiara was born to parents Maria and Ruggero who had waited and prayed 11 years for her arrival.

Although an ordinary girl in most respects, Chiara showed an unusual

sensitivity and love for the outcast, giving her toys and pocket money to the disadvantaged. She joined the Focolare movement at age 9 with a new zeal for the Gospel, declaring: "Now I want this book to be the sole purpose of my life!"

She enjoyed tennis, listening to music and time with friends. However at 17, Chiara was diagnosed with the painful bone cancer, osteosarcoma. It was then that Chiara identified ever more strongly with the image of the forsaken Christ, a central theme within the Focolare. She gave her 'yes' to the will of God saying, "For you, Jesus... if you want it, I want it too!" To the Blessed Mother she prayed, "Heavenly Mother, you know how much I desire to be healed but if it's not God's will, I ask you for the strength never to give up."

Over the next two years, with unshakable faith, Chiara witnessed her firm confidence that God loved her immensely. Visiting friends and family received from Chiara the light of Christ that emanated from her. The Focolare founder gave her a new name, 'Luce', meaning 'light'. She especially encouraged young people to live their lives well.

As her final days drew near, Chiara looked forward to meeting Jesus, 'her spouse', in heaven where she would be "very, very happy". On October 7, 1990, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, she said her final good bye, "Ciao, be happy, I am."

Hundreds gathered at her funeral in her hometown, and 25 000 young people at her beatification in 2010. Her feast day is October 29.

Picture from Etienneitoto (Template:Wikipedia Italie) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Your Support

TO AID THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN ITS MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

I enclose

My donation cheque for \$

Name:

Address:

State/Territory: P/code:

Email:

.....
or please debit my

Card type: Mastercard Visa

Amount: \$

Card number:

Expiry date:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

POST THIS COUPON TO: Catholic Enquiry Centre
PO Box 415, Crows Nest
NSW 1585 Australia

The CEC Team

Dr John Collins is the Acting Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC). John has worked for over twenty years in Church agencies. He joined the CEC in 2007. John completed a PhD in Method and Practical Theology at Australian Catholic University and has a Bachelor of Theology, a Master of Theology, a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Master of Education in Pastoral Guidance.

Roslyn Rajasingam is the Acting Projects Manager of CEC. Roslyn spent over twenty-five years working with government, semi-government, church and not for profit organisations in Australia and overseas managing or coordinating programs, projects and courses.

Roslyn has been with CEC for nine (9) months. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Business Administration from the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas (Manila) and a Graduate Certificate in Management (Community Management) from the University of Technology Sydney.

Dr Melissa Wood is the Mission Projects Officer of CEC. Mel worked for the CEC in 2012-2013 and has come back last month to work with us for a year. Melissa is a registered Medical Practitioner and has worked mainly in Emergency, both on the Gold Coast and in Sydney.

John Nguyen is the Mission Projects Officer (Part-Time) of CEC. John has a Bachelor of Marketing and Media from Macquarie University.

Danielle Carson is the Administration Assistant (Part-Time) of CEC. She worked in the Banking and Finance industry, both in Australia and in the UK. Danielle joined CEC in January 2013 after working in the St Thomas Parish office, Willoughby (now Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore) for over 5 years.

Jan O'Donoghue works Part-Time at CEC. She worked in senior roles at the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institution for over twenty (20) years. Jan joined CEC in 2009 and has a background in teaching and Information Technology.

Projects Desk



has left the organisation recently.

Thirdly, Dr John Collins is now the Acting Director while I am Acting Projects Manager. Danielle Carson is still with us working three days a week. We have two new additions to the team: Dr Melissa Wood (Full-Time) and John Nguyen (Part-Time) as Project Officers.

With this new team, we have been preoccupied with preparing for a Youth Event in Adelaide where we are hosting a booth and conducting a workshop. One significant activity we will be having there is recruiting CEC Companions who will help us with the distribution of coupons for non-Catholics to request the book "Call and Response." We hope to get contact details of young people who may be interested in supporting the work of the CEC.

We just completed a project to make our CEC website responsive which allows all internet audiences to view our contents easily in different types of tools such as from mobile phones, tablets and other devices. Also, in order to improve our marketing strategies for 2016, we had a Planning Session that focussed on how to engage CEC's target audience through using a digital engagement tool, building and strengthening our networks, including RCIA, and embarking on a more comprehensive national distribution of our book-request coupons.

In Christ's Peace this Season,

Roslyn Rajasingam
Acting Projects Manager
Catholic Enquiry Centre

The Catholic Enquiry Centre had some staffing changes recently. Firstly, I have taken over Jan O'Donoghue's column on AusVangelist. Jan is preparing to enjoy another phase in her life as she spends more time with her husband. Secondly, Marita Winters

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

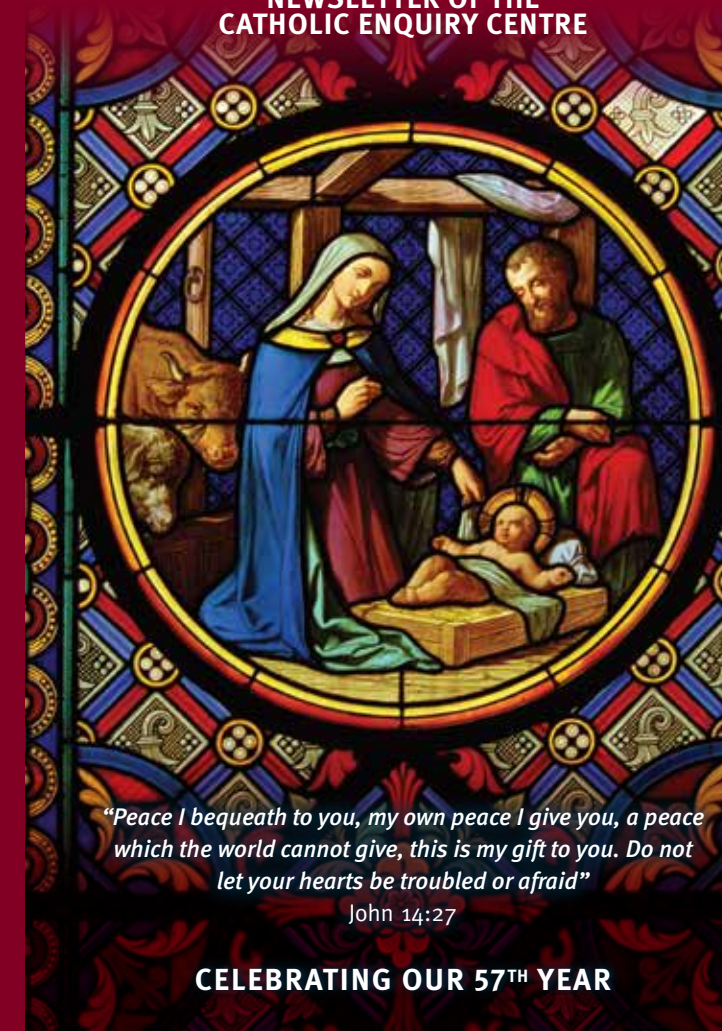
The Catholic Enquiry Centre benefits from the generosity of many of our donors and supporters, even after they are no longer able to contribute on a regular basis. Those who have died and left a bequest to the Catholic Enquiry Centre give a gift which keeps on giving.

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.

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 3 • CHRISTMAS 2015

AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

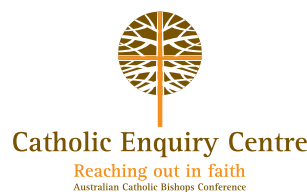


"Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid"

John 14:27

CELEBRATING OUR 57TH YEAR

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY DOOLEYS LIDCOMBE CATHOLIC CLUB



PO BOX 415
Crows Nest NSW 1585

1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484)
info@catholicenquiry.com

www.catholicenquiry.com

