



## From the Acting Director



Since the last edition of Ausvangelist, much has happened in the life of the Church. Pope Francis continues to shine on the world stage as perhaps the only person who has the moral authority to enter into dialogue

with all people about our common home, planet earth. Taking its name from the first line of the great hymn of praise the Canticle of Creation by St Francis of Assisi, the encyclical *Laudato Si* draws a strong link between care for the natural environment and the just distribution of the resources and fruits of the earth. *Laudato Si* adds to the body of the Church's social teaching and echoes the papal encyclical *Pacem in Terris* written by Saint Pope John XXIII over fifty years ago when the world was on the brink of nuclear war.

The whole body of Catholic Social teaching reminds us that the Catholic Church is indeed a gift from God to the whole world.

Closer to home we have been reminded that human frailty and sin are also part of our Church. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse continues to shine a light on some of the darker, hidden parts of the history of the Church in Australia. Divinely inspired, the Church is at once graced, imperilled by the effects of sin and ultimately redeemed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The last couple of months have been a particularly active period for the Catholic Enquiry Centre with regard to testing out new methods of evangelisation, outreach and missionary activity. In late May we teamed up with CREDO, the evangelisation centre

in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville, NSW to reach out to people at the Mind Body Spirit Festival in Sydney. Jan picks up this story in From the Projects Desk column.

As the current Acting Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, I want to make a special mention of thanks to the extraordinary work undertaken by previous CEC Directors in inviting people to leave a portion of their Will in the form of a Bequest to the Catholic Enquiry Centre. Money left to the Catholic Enquiry Centre in the form of a bequest is invested and the interest on investment helps to fund our work.

It is right and proper to support missionaries working in foreign lands. It is also vital that the Catholic Enquiry Centre as a missionary agency in our own land be materially supported into the future. While the Catholic Enquiry Centre is an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, it is totally reliant on donations and bequests for all of its activities.

As you are preparing or revising your Will, in consultation with family and legal counsel, I ask that you consider including the Catholic Enquiry Centre among those who will benefit from the fruit of your labour, ingenuity and industry.

In Christ Risen,

**Dr John Francis Collins**  
Acting 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. Sharing the gift of faith is the best gift you can give.

### CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

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## Projects Desk



The Projects Desk has been very active over the last couple of months. Included among the projects undertaken was a redesign of the Catholic Enquiry Centre website so it

could be easily read on Smart Phones.

In the last edition of Ausvangelist I reported that the Catholic Enquiry Centre was to have a presence at the Mind Body Spirit Festival in Sydney.

What an extraordinary event. As this was the first time we had tried anything like this, we were not sure if it was the right thing to do or indeed how we might engage with the

broad range of people that attend at such an event. Over four days from Thursday 28th May to Sunday 31st May, from 10am to 7pm each day, personnel from the Catholic Enquiry Centre met, talked, listened, prayed with and prayed for many of the 17,000 people who attended the Mind Body Spirit Festival at the Showgrounds at Sydney's Olympic Park.

People we encountered fell into three groups; those who only knew about the Catholic Church from media sources, those who were baptised and began the conversation with "I used to be a Catholic" and those who congratulated us for being there because as practicing Catholics, they thought the Church should have a presence at such events. Encounters with people provided

opportunities to reach out to those searching by offering a form to request a copy of Call and Response, invitations to return to regular practice in the faith and for practicing Catholics a word of encouragement and modelling as to what they might do in terms of outreach and evangelisation in their local parish or community.

The Mind Body Spirit project was a great success and we are currently seeking out partners to participate in the Mind Body Spirit Festivals in both Melbourne and Brisbane.

In Christ Jesus,

**Jan O'Donoghue**  
Catholic Enquiry Centre

## Resources

### CATHOLICISM IN THE MARKET PLACE

Among the many lessons we learnt from our experience at the Mind Body Spirit Festival was the importance of going out to where people gather.

The latest figures indicate that just over 12% of Catholics regularly attend Sunday Mass. In reaching out to invite others to share in our precious Catholic faith, we also have a responsibility to reach out to our Catholic brothers and sisters who are no longer active in the faith.

At the Mind Body Spirit Festival we met many people who stated that they were raised

as a Catholic. Most of these people were very keen to talk to us. Sometimes they told stories of why they stopped practicing. Some of these people expressed a desire to return to regular Mass. Others told us stories of personal or family concerns and were simply looking for a sympathetic listener and or a referral to professional services.

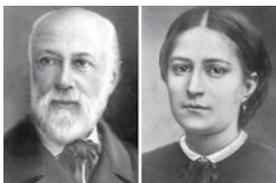
The major lesson that we learnt at the Mind Body Spirit Festival is that if people are not coming to Church (and they are not) we have to go to where they are gathering. For us, this was a large commercial festival. I know in the neighbourhood I live in, that there are community events in which local groups and shops have street stalls, usually with some form of tent arrangement.

Many people gather at these events and others like Farmer's Markets. These events provide opportunities for the Church to be in the market place.

If as a parish or group you do want to occupy one of the booths or stalls at these events, we are happy to receive requests with regard to advice and provide you with our CEC coupons and other material for distribution.

It takes a little bit of organisation but the rewards are well worth the effort. While Jesus did preach in the Synagogue and Temple he also taught in the markets, in people's homes and on the roads and plains. As a Church, we need to do both as well.

## Inspiration



### BLESSED LOUIS AND ZÉLIE MARTIN

St Therese of Lisieux is well known

to Catholics as the "Little Flower of Jesus". Today we will focus not on Therese but on her family, particularly her parents blessed Louis and Zélie Martin. The Martins had nine children, 4 died in infancy, but the other 5 survived and they all entered religious life.

It is within the Martin family environment that their daughters were nurtured in all aspects of life, but particularly in their faith.

As Louis and Zélie Martin were made

"Blessed" as a couple, the Church holds them out to us as a model of the vocation of marriage. It is within the vocation of Marriage that most of us are called as Christians to walk our journey of faith. While they lived "ordinary" lives, they have achieved sainthood by the extraordinary life of faith that was central to their everyday lives.

Today, our families can be inspired by the life of Louis and Zélie Martin. Like today, both parents worked to support their family, caring for their children as well as their aging parents. They ensured the education of their children and in particular they nurtured their faith. It was in this family environment that St Therese and her sisters first learned to pray, personally and as a family.

Life was never easy for the Martin family. However, they accepted each challenge in their lives. They acknowledged their own powerlessness over their life circumstances and through their faith, God was the powerful source of strength and love that enveloped their daily lives.

Zélie and Louis were not declared "blessed" because of Therese. Rather, Therese became a saint because initially her parents provided a family environment that nurtured the seeds of holiness that enabled her to continually respond to God's invitation to be holy.

Louis and Zélie Martin are the first parents of a saint to be beatified and will be declared "Saints" in October this year.

PICTURE BY CNS/COURTESY OF SANCTUARY OF LISIEUX

# Orders

## BOOKS

Call and Response: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith	16.50
"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](http://www.catholicenquiry.com) to download an order form.**



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