



From the Director



This year we have decided to expand our little publication from three issues to four. This second issue is the new one, and is linked with the national “Proclaim”

conference being held in Brisbane (12 – 14 July).

The intent behind this fourth “Proclaim” conference is well expressed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane: “Proclaim 2018 will inspire Catholics to explore new ways of contemplating the face of Christ in community and so empower them to set out on the new paths of mission which the Holy Spirit is tracing for us at this crucial time.”

What is this ‘crucial time’?

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Catholic Church in this country is going through a tough time. Many might agree that this is a problem of our own making. Whatever your stance on that, we might all agree that this situation is not going to change anytime soon.

But where does this leave the Good News of Jesus Christ we are called to live and proclaim? This is tough in an environment where trust and respect for the Church has been damaged. So what’s to be done? It seems to me that we have two options: throw in the towel, or turn even more deeply to the person of Jesus Christ, and trust him to lead us to live and proclaim our faith more authentically.

For this is the essence of the Christian faith: to recognise that Jesus Christ is risen and walking with you in your life. Everything else we are involved in as Catholics is to be testament to this fact. If it is not, then we are in danger of in fact not being Christian.

In order to be able to recognise Jesus Christ, we must have a living relationship with him. It is deeply linked with our mission to proclaim the Good News and to serve others. In his 2013 document, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis put

it this way: “Whenever our interior life becomes caught up with its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.” (EG 2)

He followed this up recently with: “Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens.” (*Rejoice and be Glad* 24)

What can you do?

At the end of this publication you will find a short prayer. I ask you to find the time to pray it, regularly. As you do so please pray for yourself, the ministry of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, and for the Church in Australia as it prepares for the Plenary Council in 2020. In lieu of a financial donation you might like to send us a message of support, letting us know that you are praying:

by post to GPO Box 368, Canberra, ACT 2601 or email director@nce.catholic.org.au

Wishing you every blessing

Shane Dwyer
Director

*Catholic Enquiry Centre
National Centre for Evangelisation*



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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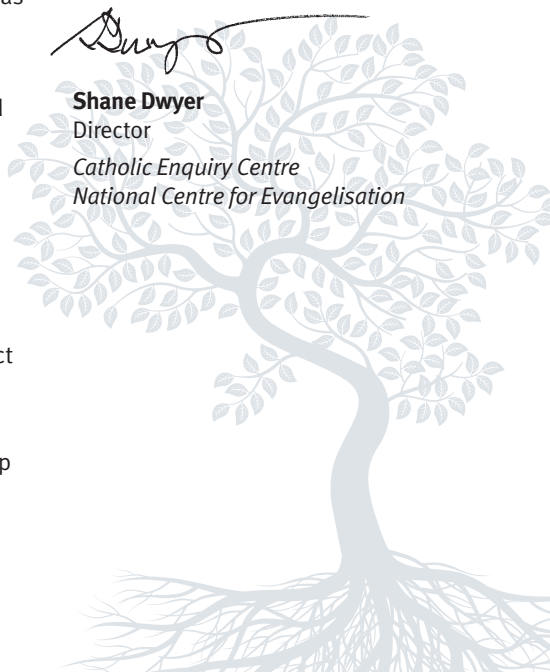
Your donation helps to provide a copy of *Call and Response*: *An Introduction to the Catholic Faith* for someone who has indicated that they want to know more about Jesus Christ and his Church. We thank you for your ongoing support, in both spiritual and practical ways, for those who receive the information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

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Inspiration

St Laurence's College: Authentically living the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice

St Laurence's College began, under this name, as a Christian Brothers College in 1915. The life and example of the Founder of the Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice, gives us a glimpse into the gospel message and provides an opportunity for us to live as a community of faith. This manifests itself through the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. In order to be an authentic Edmund Rice community, we live the four Touchstones embedded in this document: Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community and Justice and Solidarity. These touchstones give us ideals authentically linked with the charism which underpin the ministry at St Laurence's and our educational endeavours. They help us set our direction and define our goals as, following Blessed Edmund's vision, we continue to reflect and seek to make the Gospel a living reality: to be hope-filled and free to build a better world for all; striving to make Jesus' message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community; by being accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and being committed to the common good; through action and reflection, we commit ourselves to justice and peace as we stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the earth itself. This forms the evangelising mission for our community.

As a current student of the College, Laurie's has been influential for my maturity and growth within the school and outer community. This love for Laurie's was inspired by an experience with a former Laurie's student, Jason. As part of the Faith and Action program, he, and others, would come to my primary school each Wednesday afternoon to mentor and assist with homework initiatives. Jason acknowledged my potential; he encouraged me to help others in need and to be the best person I can be. This was a pivotal turning point in how I saw myself; it reinforced my confidence and has inspired me to continue leading by example. Now, in my role as College Prefect, I am inspired by the example of Jesus and the charism of Edmund Rice to be a leader for others, to be empathetic, to assist those who struggle and work towards building a strong community. In the end, the way I want to change the world, would simply be for everyone to acknowledge their potential and for them to realize that they can be the best version of themselves; and if I can help them get there, then that is my mission fulfilled. I am passing on the traditions of Edmund Rice and sharing it with others, in the hope of a brighter future for all.



Connor Vilaysack
Year 12 student



Bust of an evangeliser:
Blessed Edmund Rice at
St Laurence's College, the venue for
the Proclaim Conference. The College
continues to spread the Gospel
through his charism.

"Make your home in me" John 15:4

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.

Let us pray for the Catholic Enquiry Centre

*to enable it to continue to spread the Gospel
within Australia*

Pope Francis encourages us to pray as we evangelise

The Holy Spirit also grants the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness (parrhesía) in every time and place, even when it meets with opposition. Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty. Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence.

(The Joy of the Gospel, paragraph 259)

PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION

Father, through Jesus Christ you have charged us with the mission of preaching the gospel to all people.

May the Holy Spirit, your gift to us through Christ, move us to renew our own lives and to strive always to respond to your call to holiness so that we may effectively do the work you have given us to do.

Give us an experience of your presence in our lives and give us the enthusiasm and courage we need to share it with others.

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
our Lord, Amen.*

Your Support

While our hope is that your main contribution to the work of the Centre will be a prayer, some may still like to offer a small donation.

TO AID THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN ITS MISSION IN AUSTRALIA

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Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith

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