

AUSVANGELIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 2 • ASSUMPTION 2011



From the Director



This issue of *Ausvangelist* is focussed on those in prison and those who minister to them. These often hidden souls are in the thoughts of the Church at this time in a number of ways.

Firstly with the catechetical resource for prisoners entitled *Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith* having recently been completed and being prepared to send to Prison Chaplains. Read more in *From the Projects Desk*.

To shine a light on the significant role of Prison Chaplains the *Inspiration* has been written about Fr John Brosnan who is one of the most famous Prison Chaplains in our nation's history. He is best known as the Chaplain who ministered to Ronald Ryan, the last person to be put to death in Australia.

Fr Brosnan is just one of many unsung heroes of the Catholic Church, ministering to those who have been incarcerated. There are about 100 Prison Chaplains currently working in prisons across Australia, for boys and girls, men and women of all ages. Prisoner Chaplains come from the ranks of priests, religious sisters and brothers, as well as lay men and women. Through these Chaplains prisoners have access to personal support and pastoral care.

Recently the Sydney branch of Catholic Womens League (who have long supported the Catholic Enquiry Centre) hosted a Forum entitled *Journeys to Justice*. I was privileged to chair this gathering featuring

Her Honour Magistrate Jacqueline M Milledge, Magistrate of the Local Courts, NSW; the Hon. John Hannaford, Former Examiner, Australian Crime Commission; and Ms Sandie Cornish, Manager Research and Social Policy, Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear the panellists speak passionately with those gathered about their journeys within the justice system, the challenges they confront on a daily basis in their areas of work, and the place of their faith in their journeys.

And finally, the Bishops Social Justice Sunday Statement for Sunday 25 September 2011 is on the theme *Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the Justice System*. Through this statement the Bishops ask all Australians to think about the conditions in the prisons, and to consider who are most likely to find themselves there and why.

We might all pray for those who are in prison and those who minister to them, as well as those around us who are in need, and respond generously as in Matthew's account of the Last Judgement: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25: 35, 36.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

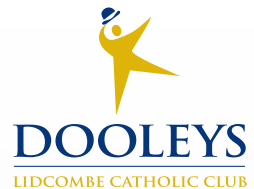
Marita Winters
Director
Catholic Enquiry Centre



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



FOR OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

"We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman. ... It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, 2010

As supporters of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, you are putting into action the call from Pope Benedict XVI to pass on what we have received. We thank you for your ongoing support of the important work of the Catholic Enquiry Centre. 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.

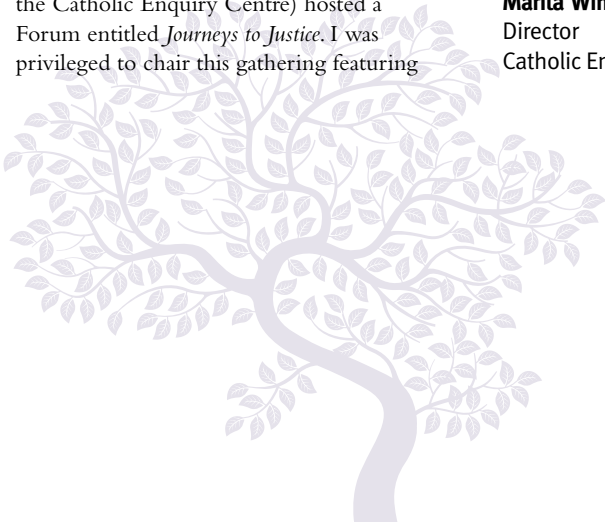
After meeting all ordinary obligations in your Will, you may consider a bequest supporting the Catholic evangelisation of our nation also. The Catholic Enquiry Centre can supply a form of words for such an intention to your legal advisors.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE

PO BOX 415
Crows Nest NSW 1585

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

www.catholicenquiry.com



Projects Desk



In the last edition of *Ausvangelist* we introduced *Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith*. In this edition I report that this new program has been completed and that one

of the first audiences to hear it will be delegates at an international gathering of Catholic prison chaplains in Cameroon. We are all very excited that our new catechetical resource is to be demonstrated at this international event.

In June we gave a presentation on *Hearing God's Call* to a national gathering of Catholic prison chaplains. The chaplains at this event responded

very positively to the program and suggested a whole range of other audiences who could benefit from having access to an audio catechetical program specifically designed to meet the needs of adults. Included in the list of audiences were patients in hospitals, people with an intellectual disability, individuals with a visual impairment and residents in nursing homes.

Topics covered in the 30 sessions that make up *Hearing God's Call* include stories of heroes from the Bible, saints from the history of the Church, Scripture in the life of the Church, the core beliefs of the Catholic Church and Mary. Prayer is featured throughout the whole program and there is a special emphasis on

the Rosary. The program concludes with a summary and pastoral advice for listeners in taking the next steps in their faith journey.

As always, thank you very much for your support both in prayer and donations as we develop new ways of inviting people to consider joining the Catholic Church.



John Francis Collins
Catholic Enquiry Centre

Resources

FOR PARISHES

Enquirers seeking to become Catholic?

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

This resource has been very well received. Typical comments we have received are:

"I find the book very user friendly".

(Religious sister working in a parish, Victoria)

"Thank you very much for your email and the book; it is really useful and a very easy read".

(Enquirer, Queensland)

Some parishes use *Call and Response* as one of a suite of resources they draw upon for RCIA but the book was not written to be used as the sole resource for RCIA. 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 place an order please visit www.catholicenquiry.com/products or call us on 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484) for more information.

FOR SCHOOLS

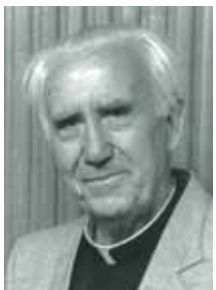
Message from Pope Benedict XVI to young people for World Youth Day 2011:

"Dear friends, I encourage you to strengthen your faith in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the future of society and of the Church! As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians of Colossae, it is vital to have roots, a solid foundation! This is particularly true today. Many people have no

stable points of reference on which to build their lives, and so they end up deeply insecure. There is a growing mentality of relativism, which holds that everything is equally valid, that truth and absolute points of reference do not exist. But this way of thinking does not lead to true freedom, but rather to instability, confusion and blind conformity to the fads of the moment. As young people, you are entitled to receive from previous generations solid points of reference to help you to make choices and on which to build your lives: like a young plant which needs solid support until it can sink deep roots and become a sturdy tree capable of bearing fruit."

For young people wanting to strengthen their faith in God, consider ordering the audio series *Hearing God's Call* or the book *Call and Response* via our website, www.catholicenquiry.com or call 1300 4 FAITH (1300 432 484).

Inspiration



Fr John Brosnan

"Nurse a mug long enough and he will die in your arms."

Fr John Brosnan

One of the most famous Prison Chaplains in Australia's history was Fr John Brosnan of Melbourne, Victoria. He was ordained in 1945

by his greatest hero, Archbishop Daniel Mannix and then served alongside him at the cathedral parish for eight years.

After serving disadvantaged orphans and families in rough neighborhoods of the city, he went to Pentridge Prison, where he spent the next 30 years, seeing the good in "hardened criminals".

Famously, he ministered to Ronald Ryan, the last victim of capital punishment in Australia. Ryan had been incarcerated repeatedly through a life of escalating crime. Finally, following an escape attempt in which a prison guard was killed, he was given the death penalty. Fr Brosnan was central to those lobbying to change the sentence, but more important was the compassion he showed this inmate personally.

When Fr Brosnan first met Ryan in December of 1966, Ryan rejected the notion of returning to the faith of his upbringing. But God was working on his heart. Before his execution two months later, Ryan turned back to God and received the sacrament of reconciliation. His last words to Fr Brosnan were: "Never forget, no matter how long you live, you were ordained for me."

The warmth and hope Fr Brosnan conveyed was for more than one, though. Children of prisoners went to private schools because he paid their fees. Inmates altered their behavior beyond what many thought possible. They spoke of him with utmost respect. In fact, it was estimated thirty percent of the congregation at his funeral in 2003 were ex cons.

He believed in the unconditional love of God; he lived out this belief, and this unconditional love was all the more extraordinary in the midst of those environments otherwise devoid of it.

Let us remember that Jesus "came to call not the upright, but sinners" (Mk 2:17); He came to "seek out and save what was lost" (Lk 19:10). "As the Father sent me, I am sending you" (Jn 20:21).

Orders

BOOKS

Call and Response	16.50
Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church	17.95
Divorce and 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
Theology of the Body Made Simple by Fr Anthony Percy	18.95

MULTIMEDIA

Amazing Gift Featuring Fr Stan Fortuna CFR (DVD)	99.00
Christ Bearers - Understanding Baptism (DVD)	32.95
Pope Benedict's Encyclical - God Is Love <i>Deus Caritas Est</i> (CD)	24.20
The Mass - Images of Catholic Life (CD)	32.95
*Hearing God's Call: An Audio Introduction to the Catholic Faith - 4 disk set with 30 sessions of 10 minute duration (CD)	40.00



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
Understanding the Mass	0.45 ea
The Sacrament of Reconciliation	0.45 ea

* (New product)

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

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

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



Catholic Enquiry Centre

Reaching out in faith

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference