

From the NOE



The first encyclical from Pope Francis has just been published on the subject of Faith. It supplements the encyclicals on the other theological virtues of hope and charity issued by Pope Benedict XVI.

Lumen Fidei, The Light of Faith, begins with a quote from John's gospel where "Christ says of himself: 'I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.' (Jn 12:46)" (*Lumen Fidei*, n1)

It continues: "Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us." (n4)

This 88 page document is an important offering to the entire People of God as we continue to mark the Year of Faith. I commend it for your reading and reflection.

Inspiration

"Love doesn't mean doing extraordinary or heroic things. It means knowing how to do ordinary things with tenderness."

Jean Vanier, *Community And Growth*



In this month of August we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, also known as the Star of the New Evangelisation, and the Feast of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. These two women are among the many role models of the faith offered to us by the Church. Their lives were built on the encounter with the living God.

May our lives, too, be transformed by God's love.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Marita Winters, Director

From the Bishops: Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation and living example of the Kerygma

Bishop Julian Porteous

To seek to understand Our Lady as the star of the New Evangelisation is to enter into the very heart of the New Evangelisation and the message of the kerygma.

The first strong call to a New Evangelisation was by Blessed John Paul II in Haiti in 1983. He called for a New Evangelisation that was new in "methods", "means of expression" and "ardour". This description still has much to offer, especially in the light of last year's Synod. What the documents and submissions for the Synod revealed is that the vitality of the New Evangelisation is firstly a work of the Holy Spirit; bringing creativity (new "methods" and "means of expression") to our carrying of the Word to the world. Here is the first rich link to Our Lady. She so profoundly submitted herself to the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit that she conceived the Word, carried him inside her and revealed him to the world. She is our first and best example of what it means to be docile to the Holy Spirit – the "principal agent of evangelisation" (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 75)

It is in Mary's perfect submission and her perfect ongoing discipleship that we also come to understand the source of "ardour" for the New Evangelisation.

The New Evangelisation addresses a post-Christian culture where God has been sidelined or perceived as an impersonal force with no real relevance for the self-reliant and self-made

postmodern. Perhaps as a Church we are a little responsible for this, since we have relied too heavily on culture to transmit the faith by osmosis when for some time now it has not. The antidote to this is a strong and counter-cultural decision of faith or intentional discipleship. This is a hallmark of the rich expressions of the New Evangelisation that have blossomed all over the world. . .

. . . If we seek to understand the grace of the New Evangelisation and rediscover the power of the kerygma for making disciples today, there is no greater helper than Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation. In fact, by pondering the mystery of the kerygma in our hearts with Mary we can discover the gratitude and joy that must accompany our evangelisation efforts. We can indeed unite our souls with Mary and in humility say "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour."

Read complete article

The importance of the kerygma for the New Evangelisation and how to present it to the contemporary mind will be explored by Bishop Julian Porteous and other international and national keynote speakers at the 5th CREDO Colloquium on the New Evangelisation in Sydney on Friday 16th & Saturday 17th August.

For further information go to
www.credosydney.org/colloquium2013.



Testimony of Faith: Seeing God in others

What follows is a transcript of a You Tube Clip in which the Founder of L'Arche; Jean Vanier recounts his experience of discovering Jesus in those who have a severe disability or mental handicap. The link to the You Tube clip can be found https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_xDRTXb-_o

Every time I see a person with a severe disability or mental handicap, the incredible cry that is coming from them, what I call the primal cry, which is "Do you love me?". It is a very deep cry. And you find with people with mental handicaps this (gesturing with open hands) is their "do you love me? Why have I been abandoned? Has my life any value?"

Somewhere this cry "do you want to be my friend?" touched me. I began visiting asylums, hospitals, different institutions and families and I discovered an immense world of pain which I never could have imagined. I discovered all this world which I had not even imagined existed.

It seemed very clear to me that Jesus was asking me just to take one or two men and start living together.

So I was able to buy a small broken-down house and I welcomed two men, Raphael and Philippe from an institution. Raphael had had meningitis, he could not walk very well and he could not speak very well. Philippe had had encephalitis, one arm paralysed, one leg paralysed. [He was] living in a world of dreams, but also with quite a severe mental handicap.

We did everything together, we cooked, we worked in the garden together, we fought together, we prayed together, we forgave each other. And so the whole journey began.

Little by little I began. I began by thinking I could do good for them. But then as the days and then the months moved on I began to discover what they were doing for me. Transforming me, changing me. I thought I was going to teach them something and suddenly I discovered that they were teaching me quite a bit.

When Jesus says who ever welcomes one of those little ones in my name welcomes me and who ever welcomes me welcomes the Father, or the one who sent me.

When Jesus says 'I was in prison and you visited me, I was sick and you visited me, I was naked and you visited me, I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger, I was strange, I was different, and you welcomed me. It is really true. I never knew this, I mean I had read it in the gospels but I did not know what it meant.

This is what I learned from people like Eric, that what is important in human relationships, is to discover that God has lead us together. I felt that very clearly for myself that it was Jesus who brought me to handicapped people.

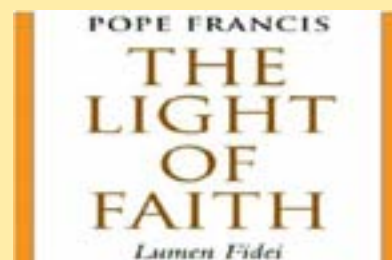
I know the day I welcomed Raphael and Philippe, I knew and I know now that in welcoming Raphael and Philippe it was an irreversible act, that in welcoming Raphael and Philippe it was a covenant that I was entering into.

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Details
August		
9-10	Bible Conference: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Luke	Waitara, Nth Sydney w: dbb.org.au
16-17	5th CREDO Colloquium: The kerygma for the New Evangelisation	Lidcombe, Sydney w: credosydney.org
16-17	Colloquium for Australian Catholic Women: Wisdom at the Gate	Nth Sydney w. wisdomatthegate.org.au
September		
6-8	Marriage Encounter	Varroville, NSW w. wwwme.org.au/nswact.htm
13-15	Beginning Experience	Lismore w.beginningexperience.org
26-29	IGNITE Conference 2013	Rothwell Brisbane w: igniteconference.com.au/

Resources

On the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul June 29th Pope Francis released his first Encyclical Letter *Lumen Fidei* the Light of Faith. While the Encyclical was released by Pope Francis a good deal of the letter was compiled by Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI.



For a direct link to the *Lumen Fidei* [double click here](#)

To read a short summary of the main points of *Lumen Fidei* [double click here](#).

Prayer

Prayer for the Poor

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger.

Give them through our hands their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen



Mother Teresa, from "Prayers for Today," published by Leaflet Missal Co



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