

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine | DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

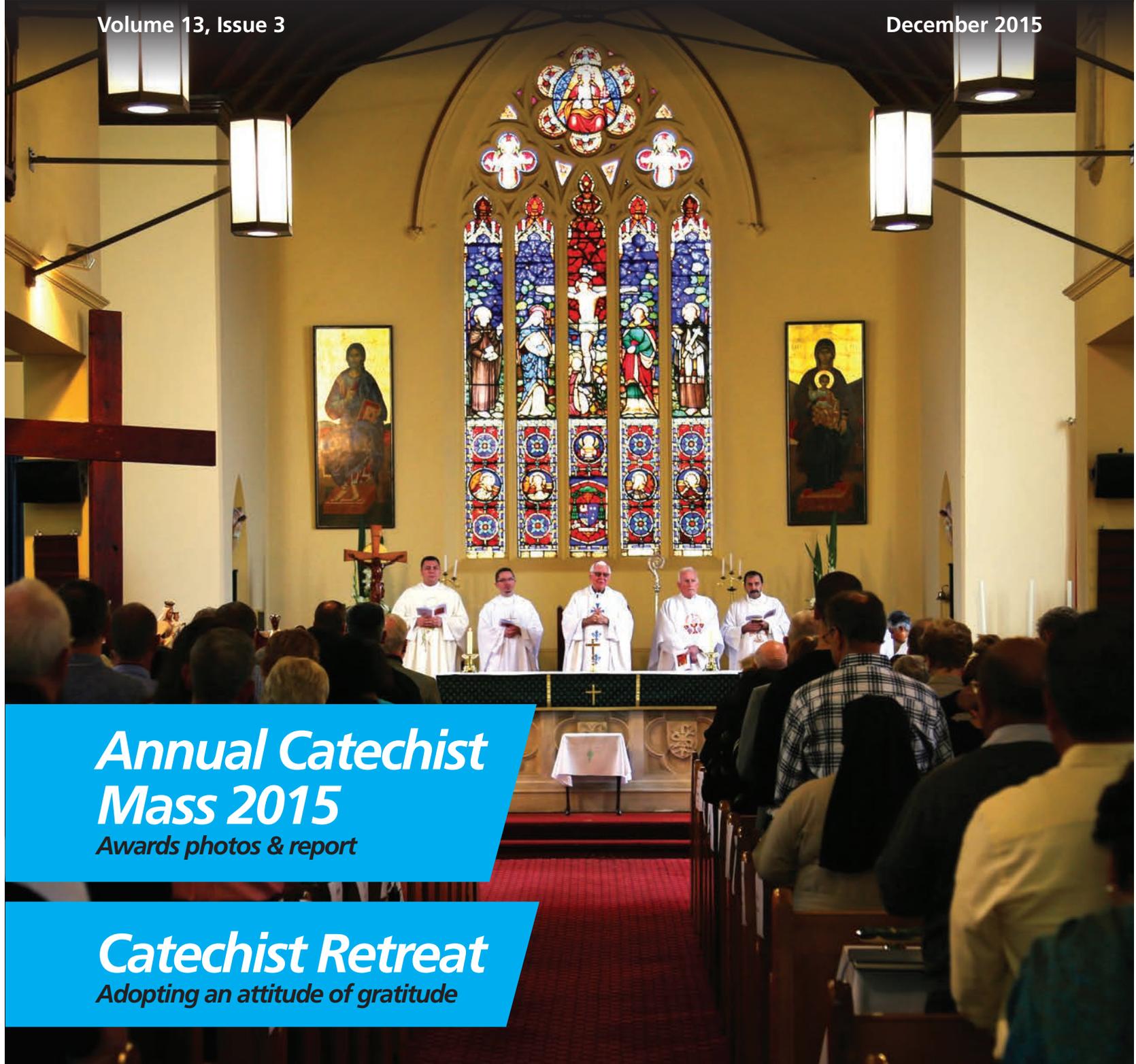


THE CatechistNET

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they left their nets at once and followed him" (Matt 5:19-20)

Volume 13, Issue 3

December 2015



Annual Catechist Mass 2015

Awards photos & report

Catechist Retreat

Adopting an attitude of gratitude

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• Pilgrimage to Rome • Fr Tony Daly honoured for life of service • and more...



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Message from the Director

As this edition of Catechist Net goes to print, we will just have commenced the Jubilee Year of Mercy. What a wonderful opportunity this represents for us as Catechists.

In proclaiming a year of Mercy, Pope Francis recognises that for individual members of the Church to truly be able to embrace its mission of making disciples, and drawing the faithful into an ever deepening walk with God, then the Church needs to be brim full of authentic witnesses who know and love God deeply. I have often repeated, that the greatest strength of this ministry, is that it is full of dedicated Catechists, who love God and can't help but share their faith because they want others to experience what an incredible gift it is. This year of Mercy is a chance for us to go deeper in our walk with God.



Pope Francis blessing a child at the Vatican

Pope Francis knows that for us to be authentic witnesses we need to let God fill up our tanks with grace and the power of his Spirit. In many ways, the year of mercy is like pre-season training, where Pope Francis is asking us to allow God to embrace us with mercy and feel God's love deeply. It is meant to be a year of encounter with the risen Lord who came to save, not to condemn. Only then will we, as Catechists, truly have anything to give. Only then can we really get our hands dirty in the mission of making Jesus known and loved as individuals who can witness to faith in a Jesus who we 'know' not simply as someone who we 'know about'. It is for this reason that Pope Francis has made the Year of Mercy the responsibility of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. To do this we will be encouraged in various ways in this year of mercy to encounter the love of God, especially through the powerful grace and encounters with God's love in the sacrament of reconciliation. I urge all Catechist in our Diocese to not miss this opportunity to make choices that enables them to engage in the many prayerful, sacramental opportunities to engage with Gods mercy in the year ahead in their Parishes and throughout the Diocese.

(continued on page 3)



The most recent CCRESS Retreat & Conference



(from page 2)

Jubilee Year of Mercy Celebration for Catechists of the World

With that in mind, I would encourage Catechists who are in a position to do so to consider participating in the Pilgrimage to Rome for Catechists that is part of the Year of Mercy. This will involve participation with Catechists around the world in prayer, Catechesis and Mass with Pope Francis from 21-23 September 2016. This event will be included as part of a broader study tour for Catechists of places of grace in Italy, including Assisi in a 18 day pilgrimage. Further information on this opportunity is

contained in this edition of Cat Net.

Congratulations

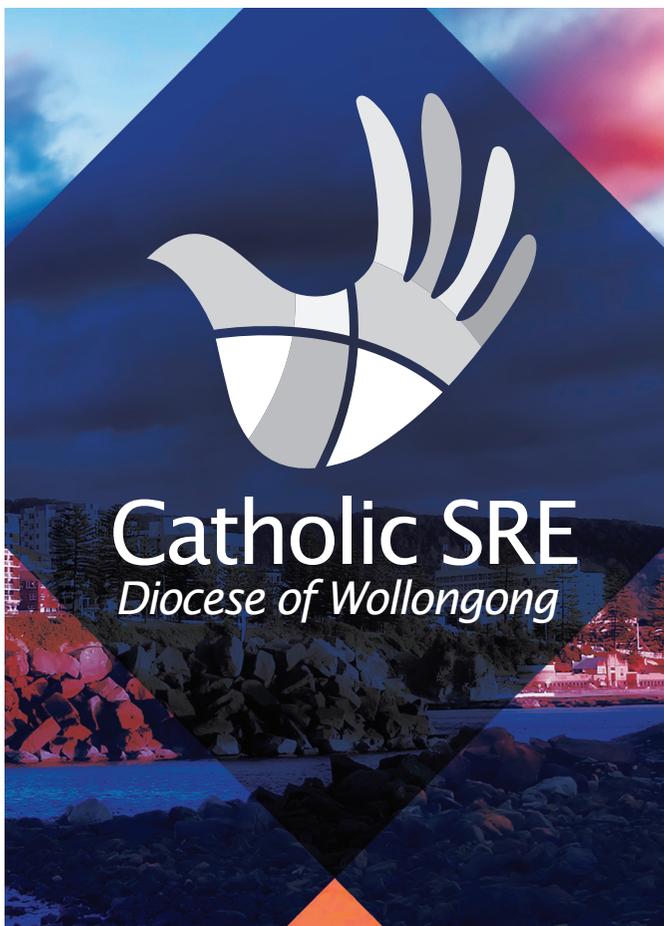
It was wonderful in November to be able to celebrate with Catechists, their families and various clergy from around the Diocese at our annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all of the award recipients. Your service to this ministry in making Jesus known and loved is inspiring.

On behalf of the whole CCD team in the Diocese of Wollongong, I would like to wish all of our Catechist and their families a happy and holy Christmas. May you be

deeply blessed for your efforts to proclaim Jesus as the light of the world.

Mr Jude Hennessy
Diocesan Director
CCD & Evangelisation
Wollongong

The Faith of Our Families & A Strength of Public Education



Think about it...

It has been present at most of the important milestones in your life ... your baptism, your first communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. The work of the many ministries of the Catholic Church are far reaching and life giving.

You can play a part in helping to ensure that the work of Catechists continues for future generations by leaving the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and Evangelisation, a gift in your will.

As you know, your generosity will make a difference to the lives of many.

For more information, please contact the Diocesan representative on **4222 2446** or visit **www.dow.org.au/diocese/bequests**

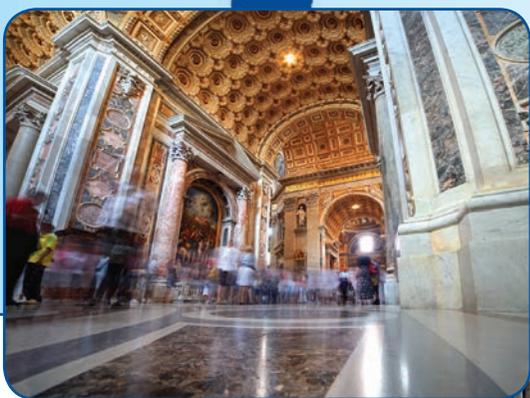
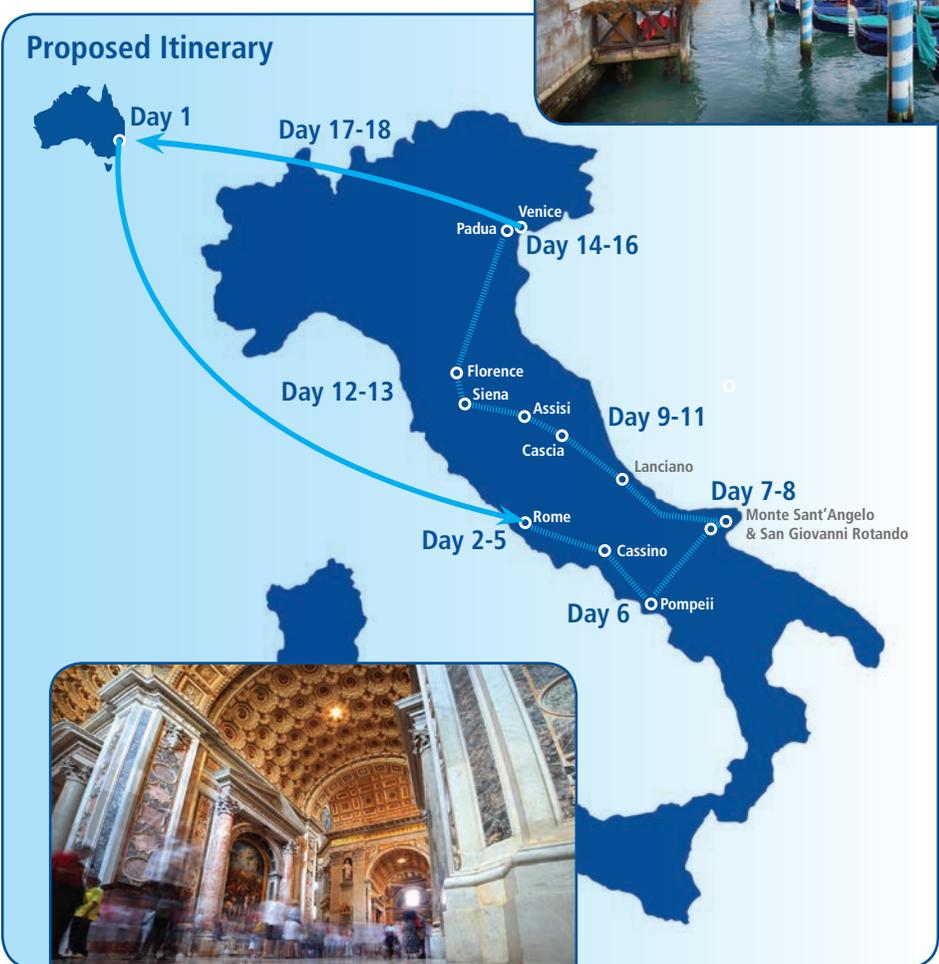


Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage for Catechists

In 2013, over forty Catechists embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and experience firsthand the iconic places described in the Bible. In 2016, CCD Wollongong is looking to offer a pilgrimage to Rome for Catechists to enter more deeply into the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis has announced a Jubilee for Catechists at the Vatican in Rome on the 24th and 25th of September 2016. It will include Catechesis and Mass with the Holy Father as well as pilgrimage to St Peter's Basilica for Adoration, Reconciliation and entry through the Holy Door which has been opened as part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The pilgrimage will also take us to other places in Italy such as Venice and Assisi (please see proposed itinerary on the right).

The proposed itinerary for the pilgrimage begins on **Tuesday 20th September** and concludes on **Friday 7th October**, a total of 18 days including travel time. Travel within Europe will be by private coach and so numbers will strictly be limited to 40 people (spouses of Catechists warmly welcome to attend). The estimated cost, with flights and accomodation is approximately \$8000 (including breakfast and dinner each day as well as all tours and tipping). Please register your expression of interest as soon as possible.



**Jubilee Year of Mercy
Catechist Pilgrimage**
20 Sept - 7 Oct 2016
18 days - \$8000 (approx.)

Please register your expression of interest by calling Cindy Oliver on 4640 8550 or emailing cindy.oliver@dow.org.au



A lifetime of service honoured

On Saturday 28 November this year, Fr Tony Daly was awarded the entire range of CCD service awards by Bishop Peter during a Mass celebrated at Ruse Parish.

It certainly is the case that Catechists generally prefer that their service go unannounced, unheralded and unnoticed by their Church community. For the average Catechist this is their ministry, it is their calling and so when a Catechist is at home planning their next lesson and praying for the children they teach, they seldom imagine an awards ceremony or a photo with the Bishop. Quite often we discover that a Catechist has gone decades without ever being thanked in a public way for their great work. What is more surprising is that is exactly how they would like it to be. Fr Tony is clearly one of the aforementioned types of Catechists.

Not only has Fr Tony worked tirelessly for the people of God in this Diocese for many decades as a Priest but he has also been a Catechist for our Catholic children in State Schools as well. It gives us great pleasure that Bishop Peter was able to personally award Fr Tony in his home Parish of Ruse the Bishop's Citations for 10 and 15 years, a Papal blessing for 20 years, a Mary Mackillop Medal for 25 years and a Life Membership for an astounding 30 years of service in this ministry.

Congratulations and thank you Fr Tony for all your years of service. We pray that God gives you even greater joy and love for all the students you teach.



Written by
Peter Gilmore
Faith Education Officer
Illawarra-Shoalhaven Region

Are you interested in continuing to deepen and grow in your understanding of our faith?

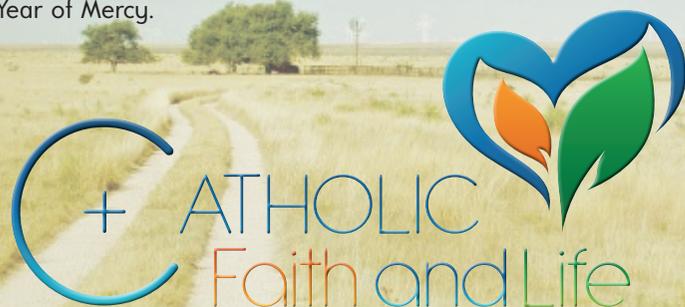
All *Catholic Faith and Life* workshops count towards ongoing formation for Catechists.

In 2016 *Catholic Faith and Life* (CF&L) is offering a wide range of faith formation opportunities, especially focusing upon the Year of Mercy.

Topics include:

- Scripture
- Saints & Sacraments
- Discipleship & Sharing Faith

Stayed tuned for the CF&L Calendar and promotional flyers in your Parish church.



CATECHIST AWARDS 2015

The Annual Catechist Mass would not be complete without the Awards Ceremony. Encompassing a wide range of service - from the support of Youth Mission Team in State Secondary Schools to Life Membership which represents 30 years or more of ongoing dedication - the Catechist Awards are our way of acknowledging the beautiful sacrifice and service of those involved in the ministry. We know that our true reward will be in heaven where God celebrates all that we have given him but until that day this is our simple thank you for all you have done.

CCD CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Youth Mission Team Wollongong

Christy Honeysett (Manager), Meg Harrison, Lian Carter, Emma Carter, Mark McGinnity, Timothy Cordina, Brendan McAlister

STUDENT CATECHISTS PROGRAM

Catholic High Schools participating in 2015:

Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville
John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow
Magdalene Catholic High School, Narellan
St Joseph's Catholic High School, Albion Park
Holy Spirit College, Bellambi
St Mary Star of The Sea College, Wollongong
St John the Evangelist Catholic High School, Nowra

LEVEL III CATECHIST TRAINING

(Albion Park) Ljubica Catlin, (Berkeley) Sr Anna Lu, (Dapto) Grace Teixeira, (Gwynneville) Victoria Ikutegbe, (Helensburgh) Marilyn Bryant, Geoff Gordon, (Ingleburn) Maria Bowling, Catherine Walsh, (Macquarie Fields) George Hogan, Alan Raisbeck, (Moss Vale) Maureen Lynch, (Picton) Jeanette Chaumont, (Rosemeadow) Mary Bianco, (Thirroul) Anne Bower, Robert Bower, Lisa Metcalfe, (Unanderra) Maria Iannuzzi, Agnes Oggero (Varroville) Arlene Correya, (Vincentia) Carmel Hurrell, Phillip Hurrell, (West Wollongong) June Toussis

DIPLOMA OF CATECHETICS

(Albion Park) Ljubica Catlin, (Berkeley) Sr Anna Lu, (Ingleburn) Catherine Walsh, (Rosemeadow) Mary Bianco, (Thirroul) Anne Bower, Robert Bower, Lisa Metcalfe, (Vincentia) Carmel Hurrell, Phillip Hurrell

BISHOP'S CITATION - 10 YEARS SERVICE

(Albion Park) Teresa Farrugia, (Camden) Therese Easter, Linda Maguire (Dapto) Grace Teixeira, (Eagle Vale) Mandy Holloway, (Kiama) Lynette Cox, (Nowra) Hugh Wilson, (Picton) Michael Griffiths, Patricia Smith (Rosemeadow) Roberta Luci-Seton, (Ruse) Fr Tony Daly, (Varroville) George Shiner, Loretta Binny, (West Wollongong) Joyce Wilkins

BISHOP'S CITATION - 15 YEARS SERVICE

(Albion Park) Linda O'Rourke, (Camden) Dianne Moore, Michelle Sammut (Campbelltown) Marie Shiner, (Dapto) Brian Brennan, Kevin Brennan, Anne Johnston, Lynette Roach, (Eagle Vale) Sr Julia Hartnett, (Kiama) Margaret Snelling, (Nowra) Anacoreta Fryer, Hugh Wilson (Picton) Michael Griffiths, Patricia Smith, (Ruse) Fr Tony Daly

PAPAL BLESSING - 20 YEARS SERVICE

(Camden) Suzanne Hayes, (Campbelltown) Denise Stephen, (Dapto) Natalie Moran, (Eagle Vale) Maria Banicevic, (Macquarie Fields) Julie Frith, Margaret Raisbeck, (Picton) Proserfina Grima, Patricia Smith, Michael Griffiths (Rosemeadow) Margaret Botterill, Maria Stuart, (Ruse) Fr Tony Daly (Varroville) Janja Jarosevski, (Wollongong) Linda Dargham

MARY MACKILLOP MEDAL - 25 YEARS SERVICE

(Camden) Leila Hanna, (Campbelltown) Mary Smolic, (Dapto) Robyn Ford, Hazel McDiarmid, (Kiama) Gillian Wells (Picton) Patricia Smith, (Ruse) Fr Tony Daly

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - 30 YEARS SERVICE

(Campbelltown) Kathleen Wiggins, (Port Kembla) Donna Leng, (Ruse) Fr Tony Daly

*Those who have instructed many in virtues,
will shine like stars for all eternity." (Daniel 12:3)*



10 year awardees



CCD Service Award



20 year awardees



Level III Certificate



30 year awardee



Diploma of Catechetics



25 year awardees



Student Catechists



15 year awardees



**CATHOLIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND**
Diocese of Wollongong
Building Church Communities

Not only do you receive great interest rate returns, but your funds allow us to provide finance for the construction of Catholic schools and parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Term Investment Rates (Effective 01 November 2015)*

3-5 months	2.70 %pa
6-11 months	2.75 %pa
12 months	2.80 %pa

*Minimum deposit \$1,000. Interest paid on maturity.
Rates may vary without notice.

Call **1800 047 703** or visit
cdfwollongong.org.au

Disclosure: The Catholic Development Fund, Diocese of Wollongong (CDF) is not subject to the provisions of the Corporation Act 2001 nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). Deposits with CDF are guaranteed by CDPF Limited, a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for this purpose. We welcome your investment with the CDF rather than with a profit oriented commercial organisation as a conscious commitment by you to support the Charitable, Religious and Educational works of the Catholic Church. CDF and the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Wollongong are not prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA); contributions to CDF do not obtain the benefit of the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959; the CDF provides an opportunity for persons wishing to promote the charitable purpose of the Diocese.

Annual Catechist Mass & Thanksgiving

What does a good 'thank you' look like? Is it's efficacy found in how emphatic one is when they say the words? Or is it the actions that accompany it, such as a handshake, hug or a gift?

them but because the faithfulness of one person gives hope and joy to the whole. Your success is cause for our celebration. Like the Israelites planting a stone along the road as they travel between two cities and naming it Ebenezer - meaning "thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12), every certificate and every award is a reminder, an Ebenezer, along our journey to heaven. God has carried us this far and He promises to carry us all the way home.

Each year when we gather to celebrate the work of the Catechists of this Diocese, our focus is simply this - how do we best say thank you to our God for this year of mission and how do we express our thanks to you, the Catechists of the Wollongong Diocese, for all that you have given?

From our hearts, thank you to all the Catechists of Wollongong. Thank you for your dedication in 2015 and all the years gone by. Thank you for celebrating another year in CCD with us. And thank you for your witness of faith. For those who were able to join us on the day, we hope you enjoyed the celebration.

For this reason, we gather around the table of our Lord Jesus and we break bread together. We do this because without Jesus, this work would not be possible. He is our salvation, our strength for the journey and our hope for the future. But we also break bread together because we are family. This isn't an army of rogue individuals sharing their own agenda with the world. This is a community of believers who see the young people of our Diocese and say, "God loves you and He has a plan so great for your life that you won't believe!"

As we move into Advent, let us pray that we make our lives an even more fitting home for our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

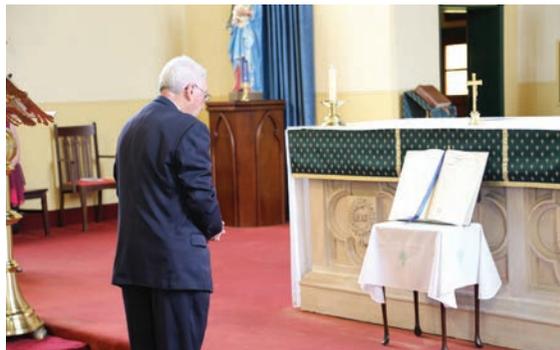


Written by
Peter Gilmore
Faith Education Officer
Illawarra-Shoalhaven Region

Once we have shared in Communion with Jesus and with each other, we say thank you and award those who have given so much over so many years. This isn't to embarrass anyone or to unduly shine a spotlight on



"Mary: woman for all times and all seasons"



Martin Peebles & the Book of Remembrance



Victoria Ikutegbe proclaims the Word



Alan Raisbeck offers intercessions



Nowra Catechists sharing a bite to eat





The gift bag each Catechist received on the day



Sr Therese Mills, MGL, speaking about gratitude



Catechist Retreat 2015: Give Thanks

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose mercy endures forever (Ps 106:1)

What a beautiful introduction to set the tone for our annual Catechist Retreats. Our theme of 'Give Thanks' incorporated both gratitude for the blessings in our lives and remembering that God, too, gives thanks for us and our participation in bringing to life the Kingdom of God wherever we are.

Sr Therese from the Missionaries of God's Love, shared openly about her journey toward gratitude and the joy that can be found even amidst suffering. From a wellbeing perspective, she also shared some insights as to the benefits of cultivating gratitude in our life. People who adopt an attitude of gratitude generally:

- Take better care of themselves physically and mentally
- Engage in protective health behaviours and maintenance
- Get more regular exercise
- Eat a healthier diet
- Have improved mental alertness
- Cope better with stress and daily challenges
- Have stronger immune systems
- Maintain a bright view of the future
- Know the love of God and the nature of God

As an action point to nurture the fruit of our day, we were encouraged to keep a gratitude journal and write down anything

that comes to mind for which we are thankful. As we lift our eyes to the Source of all goodness, our Creator and Father, life opens out to a beautiful array of signs of abundance.

Throughout the day we also carried with us those whom we love and care for. We placed the scattered flowers into the vase of water, as a symbol of interceding for and reconnecting those hearts to God. In saying that, we wish to assure you that all of our amazing catechists were prayed for and held in God's loving embrace throughout the day even if you couldn't be with us physically.

Thank you to all those who assisted in making these days happen. It truly is encouraging to be amongst such generous, faithful and holy souls building God's Kingdom so persistently and patiently.



Written by
Trish McCarthy
Faith Education Officer
Macarthur-Highlands Region





Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Diocesan Leadership Team and Support Personnel

Director of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine & Evangelisation

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Faith Education Officer Macarthur /Highlands

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CCD Clerical Assistant

Mrs Cindy Oliver
CCD Regional Centre, Micah House
Open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm
Ph: (02) 4640 8550
Email: cindy.oliver@dow.org.au

Other Supporting Organisations

Catholic Education Office Diocesan Resource Centre Xavier Centre, Wollongong

Anne Russell, Resource Centre Coordinator
Ph: (02) 4222 2481
Email: anne.russell@dow.catholic.edu.au
URL: <http://oliver.dow.catholic.edu.au/rc>

CCD Calendar Dates for 2016

Coordinator Meetings (10:00-11:30am)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	January 29, June 17 November 25
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Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	February 1, June 14 November 28
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Level I (9:30am-1:30pm)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	February 12, 19, 26 March 4, 11, 18
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Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	February 15, 22, 29 March 7, 14, 21
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Level II (9:30am-1:30pm)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	August 5, 12, 19, 26 September 2, 9
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Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	August 8, 15, 22, 29 September 5, 12
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Child Protection/Classroom Mgt. (10am-1:00pm)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	July 22 October 13
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Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	July 18 October 17
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SMARTBoard Training (10am-12:30pm)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven Xavier Centre, Wollongong	July 29
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Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	July 25
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Craft Day/Morning Tea (10:30-12:00pm)

Macarthur-Highlands Micah House, Campbelltown	March 15, October 13
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Catechist Retreat (10:00am-2:00pm)

Illawarra-Shoalhaven St Mary S. Sea, Gerringong	October 7
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Macarthur-Highlands Venue TBA	October 6
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Annual Catechist Mass (10:30am)

St Francis Xavier Cathedral	November 12
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BOOKINGS ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO BOOK, CALL MRS CINDY OLIVER ON 4640 8550