



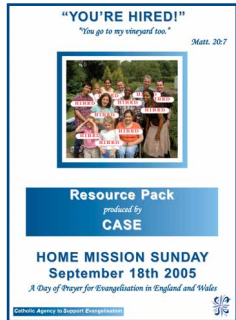
**Catholic
Agency to
Support
Evangelisation**



CASE NOTES

Issue 5 Autumn 2005

Home Mission Sunday 2005: "You're Hired!"



CASE is hoping to "hire" thousands of people this autumn for what it describes as the most important job in England and Wales.

No previous experience is necessary and qualifications are most certainly not a pre-requisite. Free training and resources are widely available so as to enable as many people as possible to take up post. What does the job entail?

It involves daily and publicly sharing and celebrating your Catholic life and faith where you live, socialise and work.

Home Mission Sunday, which this year falls on September 18th, will mark the start of our recruitment drive. It is the one day in the year when the Church nationally is asked to pray for and support our work. Free resource packs containing a range of materials are being sent to every parish and religious house. In the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, which will be read at Masses on Home Mission Sunday, we hear how the Lord invites us all to work in the His vineyard, with no exceptions. CASE is here to help.

The Bishop of Nottingham, Rt Rev Malcolm McMahon, who is the Bishop responsible for CASE said, **"As a Catholic community we must break through the fear barrier and give witness to Jesus Christ. I encourage you to support and make use of the CASE team and their resources."**

For more information please see: www.caseresources.org.uk

Mgr Keith Barltrop, CASE Director

Free evangelistic car stickers in the HMS Packs 2005



CASE Highlights...

Recent highlights include:

- Fr Philip Knights represented CASE at the British and Irish Association of Mission Studies biannual conference in Belfast.
- Clare Ford joined 300 delegates at the RELAY "Re-evangelising Europe: Beyond the Theory" Conference in the Czech Republic.
- Mgr Keith Barltrop led a workshop for nearly 100 people at the Eucharistic Congress in Birmingham, in July, on the theme of "The Eucharist and Evangelisation."
- As part of CEO on-going development, Clare Ward helped to lead the first pilot "Seeker Weekend" in Pantasaph, North Wales. More seeker events are to follow.



And there's much more...

...Please check out www.caseresources.org.uk

BBC 2's *The Monastery*



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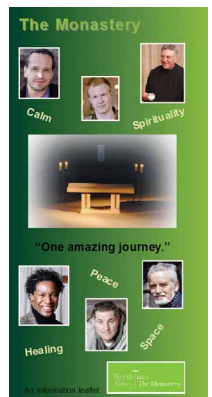
As seen on TV



A 2.5 million peak audience figure, over a hundred daily emails, thousands of enquiries and 50,000 web visitors: Just a taster of some of the fruits of an enormous step of faith taken by Fr Abbot Jamison and the Benedictine Community at Worth Abbey, West Sussex.

The three part series for BBC 2 was called ***The Monastery*** and was filmed at the Abbey and broadcast in May. It followed the remarkable journey of five people who were searching for a greater meaning to life, and to that end they said goodbye to 'normal' life to live alongside a 22 strong community of Catholic monks.

CASE's involvement came in working alongside the Worth team to set up, run and resource the audience response office as part of our Catholic Enquiry Office remit. Special follow-up materials were created for enquirers, a dedicated ***Monastery*** resources web page was written, a response unit was staffed at West Heath Road and we trained and supported staff to run a similar office at Worth.



Free Monastery leaflet

During this time, one viewer called to say: "I saw *The Monastery* and felt much moved... Can you help me move forward in some way?" Another emailed: "It has got me thinking about my life in a totally new way." Meanwhile from another: "I am 80 years old this year and am still searching."

For more information, please see our free Monastery resources available on the CEO web site at: www.life4seekers.co.uk/TheMonasteryFreebies.htm

**Would you like to find out more about evangelisation opportunities in England and Wales?
Please visit: www.caseresources.org.uk**

What is CASE?

CASE is an Agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Through a wide variety of resources and training, its remit is to enthuse, engage and equip all tiers of the Church in the urgent task of evangelisation.



“Behold The Lamb!”

The Cardinal, four Bishops, the Preacher to the Papal Household, more than 4000 people... and CASE, gathered in Birmingham over the summer for a unique celebration.



Hosted at Newman College, from July 14th - 17th, delegates listened to an array of inspiring talks and workshops as part of the first Eucharistic Congress to have been held in England and Wales for four decades. The event was organised in direct response to Pope John Paul II's invitation to celebrate a year dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament and was jointly sponsored by the Dioceses of Birmingham, Northampton and Nottingham.

Preaching the homily at Mass on July 15th, His Eminence, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said that for the Church, “This Holy Sacrament is the source of her strength in preaching the Gospel, source of love, and gives us the promise of eternal life.”

CASE's involvement in the Congress came in providing a venue for planning meetings and personnel to help support and run the Congress programme. The Agency was also instrumental in ensuring that the initiative emphasised that the Eucharist is the source of evangelisation; this was reflected in the workshops and main talk content.

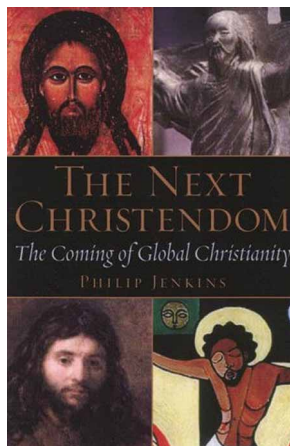
Materials and ideas shared at the event are now being consolidated with a view to launching new initiatives. Margaret Smidowicz from the Diocese of Nottingham said, “This was a deeply significant event and has prayerfully helped to ignite a burning flame for the New Evangelisation.”

Faith and Culture Comment: *Heading South*

In his influential but controversial book, *The Next Christendom*, Philip Jenkins notes that Christianity's centre has moved South (especially South America and Africa). For him the declining Liberal Christianity of the North will have to learn from and be transformed by the more Conservative Christianity of the South.

As significant as Jenkins' work is, there are several difficulties:

- There is something of a tendency to generalise and simplify complex issues.
- ‘Christendom’ has always been problematic; today, association of Christian faith with military and political power is even more contentious.
- It could be argued that in his polemic, he overstates the moral, spiritual and religious decline of the North and romanticises the South.
- He could be seen to take more seriously the ongoing imbalances of power between North and South.
- It might be helpful to note the many channels of cultural interaction, rather than what appears to be a too ready acceptance of the ‘Clash of Civilisations’ thesis.



There are tensions between economic globalisation and local communities. There are many encounters and interfaces. Many cities, not least London, are already multicultural communities; the Global North and the Global South abut in our neighbourhoods and streets. Certainly what happens in the North will continue to affect the South, and the South will increasingly affect the North. (Dare we see something of this in the horrific bombings in London in July?)

Our evangelisation will need to learn from the vibrancy of the Churches of the Global South. We will need to rejoice in multicultural Eucharistic assemblies. All of us will need to reflect how our economic and cultural power can influence the lives of the poorest in the world for good or ill.

World Youth Day

3000 young pilgrims from England and Wales, 21 of our Bishops and a brand new Pope~ what a potent mixture!

August marked the 20th World Youth Day when about 1,000,000 pilgrims gathered in Cologne, Germany, and experienced something of the uniquely diverse vibrancy of being part of the Universal Church. For many, it is a real eye opener to the particular joys and blessings of being Catholic, a real sense of belonging to a truly global family.

When John Paul “invented” World Youth Days back in 1985, he made clear that in inviting young people to come together and meet him, he was really inviting them to encounter Jesus, particularly through His Body, the Church. The official WYD Day website describes how: “The most important moment in WYD is the encounter with Christ, represented by the cross that dominates the logo at its very centre. It is Christ's presence that characterises this event.”



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World Youth Day
Cologne 2005

© Weltjugendtag gGmbH

It is great that this year was the biggest delegation ever from England and Wales, and it was particularly encouraging to see all the dioceses represented, plus various new movements. However, it only equates to about one pilgrim per parish. Knowing that, although sharing your faith seems very natural while at a big event like WYD, it is all too easy to feel isolated at home, CASE worked in close partnership with Catholic Youth Services to produce a booklet that raises awareness of what support the Church offers at a national level. CASE's two Clares joined a team from various agencies of the Bishops' Conference and visited each group in Germany to give this resource personally to pilgrims from England and Wales, and to challenge them to make the most of opportunities for putting their renewed faith into action back at home.

As well as the WYD booklet, CASE produced a wristband to promote the Catholic Enquiry Office website: www.life4seekers.co.uk As wristbands are a popular accessory within contemporary youth culture, we believe a resource such as this will not only appeal to young Catholics themselves, but also provide an easy way for them to share their faith with their friends.

Interested in finding out more? For the full text of this comment see: www.caseresources.org.uk/latestnews/latestnews_culturetalk

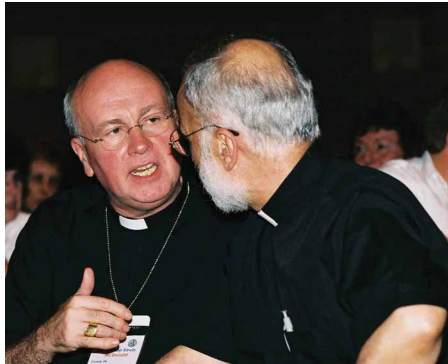
'One Stop Shop'

Our attempt to provide a 'one stop shop' for evangelisation resources, the CASE Directory of Evangelisation, is growing and growing. There is a welcome burgeoning of evangelisation initiatives, groups and training. Look out for an online draft on our website in Oct: www.caseresources.org.uk If you can think of something which should be there but isn't yet, please do let us know.



Good News about those who give Good News

At the end of June some 200 leaders of Charismatic Renewal in Britain and Ireland met at Newman College, Birmingham to pray and discuss about the future of the movement in this country. Talks by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa and Archbishop Kevin McDonald helped to focus the attention of delegates on the specific charism of the Renewal, and on the needs of the Church in Britain today.



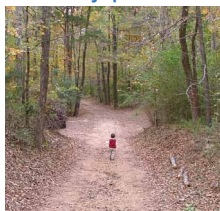
Archbishop Kevin McDonald and Fr Raniero Cantalamessa having an animated discussion.
Photo: © Gabriele Sedda

Many of those present at the Consultation are active in evangelisation in different forms, but all were aware of how easily we can turn God's gifts into something inward-looking, a source of personal comfort, maybe, but not something which makes us reach out beyond our parishes and communities. The last such consultation led, indirectly, to the formation of the Catholic Alpha office and the creation of the CaFE video and DVD series: we eagerly await the fruit of this latest one.

On the Way to Life ...

...is the thought-provoking title of a new report published by the Catholic Education Service. Archbishop Vincent Nichols says of this document, "It highlights the ways in which, in this country, we stand at a crossroads. We need to reflect deeply on its contents." The changing landscapes of contemporary cultures open out roads and choices of directions which can seem bewildering, but they are the paths we must tread as evangelisers. The analysis and insights of this study provide important maps and guidance for pilgrims through this far from barren land.

This document addresses issues vital for current religious education, catechesis and formation, issues which are not just vital for workers in these particular fields but which underpin the evangelising mission of all the Church. Fr James Hanvey SJ and others have provided a rich framework with which we can orientate ourselves in mission at this time and in this place. We would encourage as many as possible to read carefully this important work and think even more carefully about the issues it raises. See www.cesew.org.uk for more details.



CES (ISBN 1-903533-11-2 £10.00)

Record Breakers

'Webtastic' is the only way to describe the growth of interest in the Catholic Enquiry Office website over the last six months. www.life4seekers.co.uk peaked at over 24,000 unique visitors in July; that works out at around 700 people visiting the site daily.

A marked increase in interest in the site began in April at the time of the death of Pope John Paul II, the momentum then continued in light of BBC 2's *The Monastery* programme. Figures peaked in response to the creation and promotion of a new page on *The Da Vinci Code* launched on St Mary Magdalene's feastday. The latter made the front pages of *The Times* newspaper and *The Times Educational Supplement*.



St. Mary Magdalene
Approaching the Sepulchre
by G. Girolamo Savoldo

CASE's Clare Ward will now oversee web improvements and further developments which are due to be completed before Christmas. Please do ask your non-Catholic friends and colleagues to take a look at the site. It could, quite literally, help lead them to a new life!



"NOV News"

CASE works closely with the National Office for Vocation. Their latest initiative has led to more than a 'pint and a half' of interest...

So, if you were in charge of recruiting Catholic priests, how and where would you advertise? Perhaps a poster in the church porch, or possibly handouts for the men of the parish after Sunday Mass. I wonder however if you would consider beer mats?

God can touch our lives through ordinary circumstances and through the people round about us. When people gather with friends for a social drink, they often like to put the world to rights; to talk about issues, to discuss their own lives and choices.

Possibly, friends might even turn to one another and ask if they have ever considered the priesthood. Who knows, it might just be the catalyst needed. For more information, see: www.ukvocation.org.uk

Get collared for
the challenge
of a lifetime

Diocesan Priesthood
www.ukpriest.org

Pause for Thought:

"Evangelising is not merely a way of speaking, but a form of living."

Pope Benedict XVI
Jubilee of Catechists, Dec. 2000



Athens 2005

Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, Athens 2005: "Come Holy Spirit, Heal and Reconcile."



Fr Philip Knights with conference delegates

It was an immense privilege for Fr Philip Knights to represent CASE at this important ecumenical gathering. 50 Catholic delegates fully participated in the conference. We were led by an official Vatican party, but there was also a wider Catholic presence.

The World Council of Churches in delicate negotiations with Orthodox members agreed on consensus decision making. The conference reflected that intention and periods of *lectio divina* allowed each person to voice a response to Scripture without secondary comment or criticism.

The title of the conference was *Come Holy Spirit, Heal and Reconcile: Called in Christ to be reconciling and healing communities*. It included plenary addresses, panel discussions and workshops arranged around the themes: the Holy Spirit and mission, overcoming violence and healing. The final day's excellent keynote address was on reconciliation by Fr Robert Schreiter CPPS. Most of the presentations are available online at www.mission2005.org

The conference concluded at the Areopagus in Athens where there was a strong sense of walking in the footsteps of St Paul. The warmth of relationships established in Greece bodes well for future collaboration.

On Mission in the Midlands

When parish priest, Fr Anthony Franey, announced that the Mission Team had arrived in the parish, an altar server was heard to enquire, "Do they speak English?!" An understandable question, given that, as Catholics, we all too easily associate 'mission' only with red boxes and foreign lands.



In June, the parish community of St Anne's, Radcliffe-on-Trent, welcomed the Sion Community Parish Mission Team and Clare Ford from CASE, to lead them in a time of outreach and renewal. The theme of the mission: 'Come to Me' highlighted that our faith is to be always open and welcoming to all, while at the same time calling forth a personal and individual response to Jesus.

After two weeks of mission, the parish were deeply appreciative of a mission team who were certainly 'speaking the same language', inspiring the parish with new energy and vision to continue the on-going mission of reaching out with God's love to all in the locality.

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Diocesan Visit to...



In May, CASE Director, Fr Keith Barltrop, spent several days in Clifton diocese, meeting various people involved in evangelisation and seeing how CASE could help. The diocese is fortunate in having Fr Michael McAndrew as the Head of its Department for Evangelisation and Adult Formation. Although he also has a parish to run, Fr Michael is very keen to promote evangelisation activities throughout this far-flung and largely rural diocese: no easy task!

Among the other highlights of Fr Keith's visit were meetings at Glastonbury, where the parish priest and some volunteers are keen to reach out to the New Agers who throng the town; at Langport, where the Chemin Neuf community put on a variety of courses and events; with members of the Cursillo movement and Sion Community, and with a small but



growing community, John the Baptist Koinonia, who were just about to put on a training course on evangelisation at Langport.

Glastonbury is in Clifton: CASE worked with the local parish and other volunteers at an outreach during the famous music festival.

A Prayer for Home Mission

Father,
You will Your Church to be the sacrament of salvation for all peoples. Make us feel more urgently the call to work for the salvation of all, until You have made us one people. Inspire the hearts of all Your people to continue the saving work of Christ everywhere until the end of the world.

AMEN

This prayer is from the Proper of the "Mass for the Spread of the Gospel" as found in the Roman Missal.

Please see www.caseresources.org.uk for free downloadable resources for Home Mission Sunday.

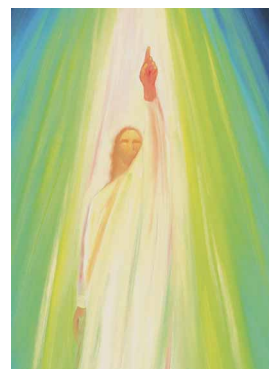


Illustration by Elizabeth Wang
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New Resource for Enquirers...

A brand new magazine style presentation of Catholic life and belief is being created in time for a New Year launch.

The new resource will replace *Living Faith Stories*, which is the free book currently given to enquirers from the CASE run Catholic Enquiry Office.

Articles will include: *The Secret to Happiness*, *The Final Frontier* and *Meditation...* plus much, much, more!

Please hold this project in prayer.

