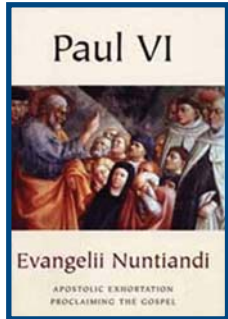




A must read! "Inspired and Prophetic"



Although Vatican II was groundbreaking and all about evangelisation, the actual word does not occur frequently in its documents. It was Pope Paul's *Evangelii Nuntiandi* which put the word on the Catholic map in 1975. Thirty years later, as we celebrate its anniversary, we are just beginning to realise how prophetic a document it was.

For CASE and our partners, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* is simply the Charter of our work. In England and Wales, at least, we are still searching for an understanding of evangelisation which will overcome the unease most Catholics still have with the word. On the one hand, there are approaches which, for all their energy, focus so exclusively on the basic Gospel message as to exclude the Church, the sacraments and the social implications of Christianity. On the other hand, some understandings reduce evangelisation entirely to the promotion of justice and find no room for the call to personal conversion.

Evangelii Nuntiandi will not allow us to do either. Possibly its most significant sentence is the warning in §17 that, "any partial and fragmentary definition... of evangelisation... risk[s] impoverishing and even distorting it."

Personal witness and conversion are at the heart of evangelisation, yet it also aims to "bring the Good News into all the strata of humanity," (§18). If evangelisation is to "catch on" among Catholics, we must take this great document much more seriously.



Mgr Keith Bartrop, CASE Director

Is your parish seeking a renewed focus on evangelisation? Order your copy of CASE's brand new parish resource booklet.

Recent CASE Highlights...

- Fr Keith Bartrop led a successful Day of Renewal in Southampton where a deanery team has put on a wide range of evangelisation events as part of a 3 year ecumenical mission.
- Clare Ford spoke at "Catholic Evangelisation Warrington", an initiative organised by Fr Tony Slingo, National Chaplain to the Cursillo movement and Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator for Liverpool.
- Fr Philip Knights addressed a full house of clergy at the National Conference of Priests in Leeds in September where he spoke about CASE's "Faith and Culture" remit and our brand new online Evangelisation Directory.
- Clare Ward has been working on a brand new series of faith outreach leaflets with the recently formed "Community of Grace". The leaflets are targeted at students attending College or University.



And there's much more...

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

Evangelii Nuntiandi We exist to evangelise...

Hundreds of people from all spheres of Catholic life gathered in Westminster on December 7th to mark thirty years since the publication of probably the most influential document about contemporary Catholic Mission.

Written by Pope Paul VI in 1975, "On Evangelisation in the Modern World" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*) has had an enormous impact on the Church worldwide. Guest of honour at the Westminster event was his Eminence, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. In the run up to the celebration he said, **"I hope this anniversary will lead us all back to that remarkable document, to hear its invitation, and to be converted to mission and proclamation."**



CASE Team pictured with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and Michelle Moran of the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism (second from right).
Photo © Gabriele Sedda

Co-organisers of the celebration were CASE and the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism. The event began in the afternoon with a team doing street evangelisation in the Cathedral Piazza. Through displays of resource material and audio visual presentations, the evening event showcased the breadth of evangelisation work currently being done in England and Wales. Those present were inspired, encouraged and challenged by input from several speakers, including David Wells, Adult Formation Advisor for Plymouth Diocese. Michelle Moran, a founding member of Sion, said: **"Over the last 30 years we have seen evangelisation become more of a user-friendly word in the Church and now we need to continue to make it a reality."**

To read the full text of the Cardinal's inspirational words and to view the CASE presentation, please see: www.caseresources.org.uk/resources/resources_downloads
For more information about the work of the Sion Community, please see www.sioncommunity.org.uk

Are you looking for free resources? Want to find out more about local evangelisation opportunities?
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.



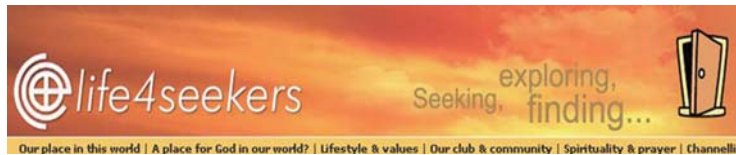
CEO Enquiries: Over 15,000 per month and rising...

On average, over 15,000 people a month benefit from the work of the Catholic Enquiry Office (CEO) which is run by CASE.



The Catholic Enquiry Office was established just over 50 years ago with a remit to provide a free service to those enquiring about Catholic life and beliefs. The Office was also set up to try pro-actively to engage with secular culture through targeted advertising campaigns. Entirely reliant upon donations, the CEO is regarded by many spiritual seekers as an invaluable service.

During the last six months, an average of 505 people per day have visited the CEO website - that's over 15,000 monthly. We also receive approximately 80 enquiries by email, letter and telephone each month.



Enquiries are very varied. One asks simply, "Could you please give me information on how to become a Roman Catholic?" Meanwhile another wrote to ask, "I am contacting you as I ultimately want to find some deeper meaning to my life and I'm hoping you can set me on the right path!"

CEO STOP PRESS: Check out the recently launched *Narnia* web resources page; although rarer than gold dust, CASE obtained a ticket for an exclusive preview screening of *Narnia* 13 days before its World Premiere! See our website for an exclusive review. Also, coming soon is the creation of a web page called "All About Angels" and a brand new free magazine for enquirers...
...Watch this space!

Faith and Culture Comment: *Winter Solstice Silly Season*

The approach of Christmas has inaugurated the usual flood of outraged stories from the press: "political correctness gone mad" is once again the battle cry. Lambeth and Havant Councils seem to be this year's targets charged with renaming Christmas lights as 'winter lights'. Whatever the objective truth, the headlines reveal the tension between Christmas as an ecclesial and Christian festival, and as a cultural celebration somewhat embarrassed by its faith roots. This makes for both an opening for the Gospel, yet also means we find ourselves in a peculiar in-between situation.



Now is the Time...for Mission

Autumnal weather failed to deter hardcore evangelisation enthusiasts in Nottingham Diocese in October as more than 120 people, including 14 priests, travelled to Leicester for a tailor-made parish resource day.

Hosted by St. Patrick's Church, the day was themed **Now is the Time**, and was designed to provide an opportunity to explore the meaning of evangelisation, gain an insight into Church teaching, discuss ideas and strategies and, most importantly, leave with bundles of practical resources. Bishop Malcolm McMahon of Nottingham provided the inspiration for the day when he was recently quoted as saying, "**We can not afford to drag our feet. To evangelise is our Christian duty and we are all too often backward in coming forward because of fear of offending others or being rejected.**"

CASE was responsible for leading the day assisted by a diocesan leadership team. Three main sessions were presented on: *Discovering the Call*, *The New Evangelisation* and *Towards the Pastoral Deanery Plan*, followed by a prayerful commissioning ceremony. Co-organiser, Diocesan Implementation Officer, Margaret Smidowicz, said, "**The day exceeded our expectations. There was a real sense that everyone returned to their parishes more confident that they could spread the Good News.**"



Plans are now underway to repeat this successful initiative in Lincolnshire early in 2006.



Christmas is our opportunity: We may bemoan crassness and excess; we may even be concerned that the true message of Christmas is obscured. But... Christmas is the deepest penetration that the Church has in contemporary culture. It is our duty to seize the moment and reach out to those who sing carols, who send and receive Christmas cards and who link themselves in some way with the Christian story.

Between paganism and Christendom: We must neither be complacently assured that underneath this is still a basically Christian context, nor withdraw with the presumption that the world out there is entirely non-Christian or even anti-Christian. Rather we should celebrate the faith vestiges, discern connecting points with the gospel and use them to communicate a fuller appreciation of Christ. The Good News of Jesus is the best present anyone could receive this Christmas.

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

Media Watch: Catholic Website for Children

In the climate of today, parents, schools and parishes can do with all the support they can get in passing on the faith to our children, and through them to our children's children.

Given the attractions of the internet for children, CASE is exploring the possibility of creating a website for them, to teach and celebrate Catholic faith and life in an upbeat way, featuring games, stories, fun activities, and possibly a chat room. It is likely to be linked in some way to the RE curricula of Catholic and other schools, and to family life.

Why not let us know what you think about this idea and what such a website could offer? Ring 020 8458 3316 or email kb@caseresources.org.uk



Good News about those who give Good News

Lipstick is a Spiritual Experience... Good News about the use of performance poetry as an innovative evangelisation tool.

"Milly, Molly Mantra" is just one of the titles of original work written by Sarah de Nordwall, a talented Catholic bard (a genre of performance poet) who is increasingly in demand.

Sarah uses poetry, story telling and humour to share the reality of God's love through contemporary culture. Her aim is to be used by God as an evangelist, a channel through which the audience is blessed. It's a reality that has recently inspired the creation of *The Bard School* so that this ancient craft can be shared with others.

Recent highlights for Sarah include writing and performing at a Christian drug and rehab unit and a conference in Pakistan called Art and Social Change. A CD of her work will be available from mid-December at www.thebardschool.com

Thanks for your Thanks!

"I thought the resource pack was very informative and well presented. Thank you for the time and energy you put into it."

Home Mission Sunday is one of the key events of the year in CASE's calendar. Many of you have told us of the imaginative and creative ways you're using what we produce. Thank you!

We are really grateful for your generous donations, and for your encouraging feedback comments. Special thanks to those of you who made suggestions as to how we can become even more effective in the future... watch this space!



ICNE Lisbon: "Christo Vivo!"

CASE took a leading role at the *International Congress on New Evangelisation* in Lisbon in November, stimulating a call from Australian, Belgian, French, Portuguese and Spanish delegates to set up a 'CASE' in their own countries.

The gathering offered inspiring talks, practical workshops and opportunities for direct evangelisation. The theme of the event was "Christ Lives" and CASE animated two workshops to international audiences: *Mission Without Jargon* and *Making Parish Life More Missionary*. A third workshop on storytelling was led by another UK delegate, Mary Callan.

Bishop Charles Henderson, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark Archdiocese, led the CASE co-ordinated UK delegation. He said, **"I encourage Catholics in England and Wales to be courageous in sharing their faith. We can be fully confident that we have Good News to offer people."**

Book ICNE Brussels into your diary now: Oct 29th - Nov 5th 2006

...you won't regret it!

Some of the UK delegates outside the Paul VI Conference Centre in Fatima: our day pilgrimage here was a real highlight of the Congress.



"NOV News"

CASE works closely with the National Office for Vocation. Here they share a reflection on their recent annual conference.

Diocesan Vocations Directors were in Rome in October for their annual conference. Amazingly, six months after the late Holy Father's death there are still long queues as thousands wait to pay their respects. Clearly, Pope John Paul II continues to be a figure of inspiration for our time.

The Church has great opportunities to evangelise the many tourists who come to Saint Peter's daily, and yet there is no evangelistic material on display. A missed opportunity perhaps? But closer to home: how do we use our church buildings and events to full evangelistic effect?

COMING SOON: CASE workshop and resource material on using our Church buildings as a mission resource. Interested? Please contact Mgr Keith Bartrop: kb@caseresources.org.uk



Pause for Thought:

"Wake up!

**It was for you that God was made man!
Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
Christ shall give you light."**

St Augustine, Sermon 185



Dates for your diary Spring 2006, please see:

www.caseresources.org.uk/latestnews/latestnews_diary.htm

CASE Hosts CEA Meeting



Angel outreach cards, The Da Vinci Code and Christmas resources were just some of the exciting things on the agenda of the Christian Enquiry Agency meeting hosted by CASE in October.

The Christian Enquiry Agency works in partnership with all Christian denominations to provide opportunities for people to enquire about Jesus Christ. CASE is represented on the Agency Board and is a trustee of the service which compliments the work of the Catholic Enquiry Office.

An ecumenical body, the Agency is involved in a number of cutting edge initiatives including the recent publication of new outreach resources for spiritual seekers, these include materials based on the themes of angels and nature. Creator Bruce Stanley said, "They explore the Christian angle from the perspective of the user's desires and interests, offering practical thoughts about life fulfilment and how to make a difference."

Some 15 Church representatives attended the October meeting where Christmas resources were high on the agenda. The CEA is working in partnership with the Christian Advertising Network (CAN) who have launched a campaign "December 25th Revolution Begins - Celebrate the Birth of a Hero!"

CEA Director, Jeff Bonser said, "We really value the link with CASE and it was a privilege to meet at the CASE offices. We hope and pray that the Christmas posters, radio ads campaign and response cards in cinemas showing the Narnia film will help introduce people to Jesus."

See: www.christianity.org.uk & www.churchads.org.uk/Christmas2005

Celebrity Corner: CASE and N^o 10!

Cherie Blair and Lord Baker were among the guests at a reception in the Athenaeum in Central London in October to promote the work of one of our partners, the G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture. The Institute is developing a study centre in Oxford devoted to Christian apologetics and Catholic social thought, and has organised conferences on literature, history, theology and liturgy. After Mrs Blair's speech on the continuing importance of Chesterton's legacy, Fr Keith introduced the work of CASE and of the Institute, so it can be confidently stated that Catholic evangelisation is on the agenda at N^o 10!



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www.caseresources.org.uk



www.life4seekers.co.uk

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Oh I do like to be beside the seaside...

...even on a freezing cold Saturday in December! The fiery zeal of faithful Catholics across the town-wide deanery of Blackpool in the Lancaster Diocese was obvious not just in the numbers that attended the Deanery Evangelisation Day in December, but also in the careful way they had prepared. In the two months leading up to the day, Holy Hours of Prayer for Evangelisation were held in parishes across the deanery.



Detail of a specially commissioned Trinity icon which accompanied the prayer tour preceding the day.

Photo © Robert G. Nickson

Clare Ford led participants through sessions that looked at how we can grow together as communities by making parish life more missionary, and at our individual calls to receive and share God's love. There were opportunities for individual reflection, and time to share ideas and experiences. The day was enriched by a range of stalls which showcased some of the ways that local Catholics put their faith into action.

The Dean, Fr Bernard Woods, commented that, "The Deanery Evangelisation Day in Blackpool was a great success, and a good personal and parish preparation for Christmas. I hope and pray that all the parish groups involved will derive great benefits and blessings from this day."

Prayer for a New Start

I greet the new year
Above all by glorifying God
Who alone is eternal, unlimited by time.
He alone is Truth and Love.
He is the One Who is.

In the Name of Jesus Christ I embrace this year,
That it may be a time of salvation for the Church and for the world.

A prayer of Pope John Paul II



Invaluable Evangelisation Resource

It's here!

Ever wondered how many different evangelisation initiatives are available? Which ones might best suit you, your parish or community? How could you contact them? Have a look at the brand new CASE Directory.

Two years in the making, this new online resource contains hundreds of contact details and profiles. Chapters include: Parish and Area Missions, Parish Focused Resources and Forms of Small Christian Communities, Youth Programmes and School Missions, Welcoming Back Returning Catholics, Training / Formation Centres and Courses, Prayer Groups, Initiatives, Groups and Communities with Particular Ministries, Web Resources and Printed Resources.

Please take a look and let us know if you think we have missed anything out: info@caseresources.org.uk

