



**Catholic
Agency to
Support
Evangelisation**



CASE NOTES

Issue 13 Spring 2008

Not A Solitary Hero



May and June should be wonderful months for evangelisation this year. On 11th May we celebrate Pentecost, that great outpouring of the Holy Spirit Who empowers us to share the Good News beyond anything we would be capable of ourselves, while on 29th June

the whole Church begins a 'Year of St Paul'. Like any activity, evangelisation requires inspiring and encouraging models and St Paul would be hard to beat.

In *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (40), Pope John Paul II asked all Catholics to **'allow ourselves to be filled with the ardour of the apostolic preaching which followed Pentecost.'** He went on, **'we must revive in ourselves the burning conviction of Paul, who cried out, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!"'**

But St Paul is also an encouragement to us in our weakness. He met so much opposition that he was tempted at times to give up, but came to realise that it is exactly in weakness that we become suitable instruments for revealing God's mercy. Anyone who tries to share their faith will meet opposition, or indifference, which can be even harder. The evangelist is not a solitary hero, but someone in constant need of encouragement from God, which usually comes through fellow-Christians. May we know how to encourage each other this year in the great work of mission. Do not be afraid. The Lord is with us.

Mgr Keith Bartrop, CASE Director

'Cast Your Burdens...'

...is our new online resource for non-Catholic enquirers which offers an interactive area where visitors can name their concerns and fears, and virtually hand them over to Jesus. Please see: www.life4seekers.co.uk/the-passion

Recent CASE Highlights...

- **Fr Keith** gave two talks to Arundel and Brighton clergy at Worth Abbey on how evangelisation can reduce stress in the life of a priest!
- **Emily Davis** led a retreat day for youth ministers in the Northampton Diocese, connecting the Lenten journey with the promise of Pentecost and the empowering of the Spirit.
- **Clare Ford** represented CASE at the recent Consultation on Adult Religious Education and Formation organised by the Bishops' Conference.
- **Clare Ward** animated a training weekend and commissioning evening for 'Seeker Centre' volunteers from Birmingham and Pantasaph who give their time and talents to non-Catholic enquirers.

Please see www.casesources.org.uk for much more.



Identity And Culture

We live in an increasingly multi-cultural society. It is not that there is one pluralistic culture, but there are many cultures living side-by-side with one another, each with its own way of understanding and responding to the world in which we live.



As Catholics, how aware are we of having a particular culture or identity, or a particular way of doing things? Is our Catholic culture markedly different from the world around us?



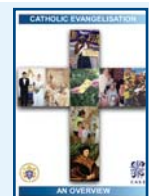
Migrants' Mass at Westminster Cathedral

The Church has been and still is wrestling with the concept of culture(s), and what our Gospel-based response to them should be. There are many approaches we could adopt. We might respect the autonomy of the culture(s), and seek to live peacefully alongside them. We might seek to acknowledge the good, and discover God's grace therein, thus expanding our own understanding of Him. We could search within the culture(s) for symbols and language into which we could translate the Gospel for our neighbours. Or we might live our lives 'counter-culturally', thus proclaiming the Gospel without words.

Aspects of all the above will certainly be fitting at various times. Each, however, needs to be under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and to be fuelled by a sense of urgency that is fitting for evangelisation. In the words of Pope Paul VI, **'Culture(s) have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Gospel. But this encounter will not take place if the Gospel is not proclaimed,'** (*Evangeli Nuntiandi* 20).

Catholic Evangelisation: An Overview

This document was originally presented at an in-service session for the Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales in autumn 2006. It provides an excellent summary of Church teaching on evangelisation and offers discussion questions.



For a free copy, please email: info@casesources.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.



Benefactors Raise £52K

Last year, around £52,000 was raised in support of the work of the Catholic Enquiry Office (CEO) through regular giving and legacies. We are so grateful to all those who made a donation.

There are currently 1800 people on our benefactors' database and whether they give £1 or substantially more annually, it makes an enormous difference to our work. This giving directly supports our outreach initiatives, such as new website pages and the printing of contemporary materials.

There are several ways that people can help. The first is through prayer. The second way is donations by cash, cheque and bankers' order. If you pay tax, your gift can go further by signing a *Gift Aid* declaration. Some people also generously remember us in their wills.



Mass is celebrated most days at the CASE Offices and we regularly pray and give thanks for our supporters. We especially remember Tom Chappell who died recently; he was a long time benefactor and would often pop in to West Heath Road for a chat and to help fill envelopes. May he rest in peace.

If you'd like to find out more about the work of the CEO and how to support it, please see: www.life4seekers.co.uk clare.ward@caseresources.org.uk or ring 020 8458 3316.



Restructuring And Evangelisation

CASE has always believed that the restructuring process, in which so many of our dioceses are engaged, is fundamentally a call to conversion, both personal and collective. This is especially a conversion from being inward-looking to being evangelisation-centred.

We hosted a Conference on just this theme in January at Swanwick, Derbyshire. By bringing together people making key decisions at a diocesan level, almost 40 representatives from across England and Wales were invited to reflect on their experiences, share best practice and learn from each other's approaches. Such an excellent response gave us the thorny-but-delightful problem of how to hear from over 20 different speakers in less than 24 hours!



Our inspirational keynote speakers: Fr Andrew Headon of the Venerable English College, Rome, and Rev Steven Croft of the Anglican / Methodist initiative, Fresh Expressions, brought new perspectives to the challenge of reconfiguring resources in a fast-changing world. They also explored how it can open our eyes to new ways of sharing the Gospel with everyone.

There was a really lively exchange of views and some very stimulating questions posed. As one participant summed it up, **'I came for "restructuring" and got "evangelisation" – a bonus!** For more details and to download resources, please see: www.caseresources.org.uk/restructuring or email: clare.ford@caseresources.org.uk

Universal Appeal: St. Thérèse of Lisieux

It was announced recently that the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux are to visit England and Wales in September and October 2009. Wherever they have travelled (currently over 40 countries on all five continents) there have been many healings, vocations, conversions and other fruits of all kinds. Naturally we hope that this visit will be a great opportunity for evangelisation. St Thérèse has a universal appeal; she is highly respected, for example, by many Muslims, so we encourage you to find out, closer to the visit, where the nearest place to venerate the relics is to your home and to take others with you, especially those who are seeking their way in life.

St Thérèse is Patroness of the Missions and one of only three women Doctors of the Church. She prophesied that after her death she would **'let fall a shower of roses on the earth.'** In her notebooks she wrote, **'I would like to be a missionary, not just for a few years, but till the end of time.'** Her wishes have been abundantly fulfilled, especially through the pilgrimage of her relics.

By venerating the relics of Saints, we give glory to God who made them holy, we are reminded of the way God uses physical

things to communicate the invisible, and we experience the friendship of the Saints in a tangible way.

There is enormous potential for this event to to enthuse, engage and equip Catholics for the task of evangelising where they live, work and socialise.



Image © Office Central de Lisieux

If you would like to help either practically or financially with the visit, please contact Fr Keith, who is being seconded from CASE part-time to organise the visit: keith.bartrop@caseresources.org.uk

Budding Catholic Journalists

You've heard of the news presenters Kate Adie, Sir Trevor McDonald and Fiona Bruce? A pioneering training event has been created in partnership with the Catholic Communications Network, Catholic Youth Service and CASE to train a new generation of young people to become media proficient in service of evangelisation.



Image © WYD08, used courtesy of WYD2008

A special weekend programme has been put together gathering young people from across England and Wales who are attending World Youth Day in Sydney this summer. The course is being led by a variety of media professionals and will cover: media and mission, core journalism skills, using new technologies plus video and camera tips.

World Youth Day (WYD): A tailor-made web resource has been created to cater for young people going to Sydney. It includes information for pilgrims, the WYD theme and spirituality, testimonies, links and resources. Please see: www.catholicchurch.org.uk



Good News about those who give Good News

Chemin Neuf is a Roman Catholic Community with an ecumenical vocation, founded in 1973 in France. There are over 1300 members in 24 countries, including single men and women, celibate brothers and sisters, priests and ministers, and married couples.

One of the main ministries of the Community is *Net for God*, a worldwide spiritual network of prayer. There are over five hundred *Net for God* groups in more than fifty countries, praying and studying together, motivated by their desire to work for unity in the Church and peace in the world.



Chemin Neuf also provides opportunities for people to engage with the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, runs discipleship courses, has a ministry to married couples, and has recently taken on university chaplaincy. Its UK base is in Somerset.

For more information, please see: www.chemin-neuf.org or call 01458 250496.

Outreach Magazine

What do a national BBC TV presenter, an international rugby league coach, an ex-EastEnd gangster and a Catholic Archbishop, have in common? They all feature in our brand new magazine for non-Catholic enquirers. It's packed with fascinating articles about prayer, sexuality, social justice, the Sacraments... it even has a problem page!



Adrian Chiles, BBC Presenter

Do you know someone who's searching? To order, please email: info@caseresources.org.uk

J & P 30 Year Milestone

St Francis of Assisi's '**Preach the Gospel at all times... use words if necessary**' is one of the most frequently quoted lines about how evangelisation is most effective when 'the walk' matches 'the talk'.

A group that embodies just such an approach is the National Justice and Peace Network which co-ordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

Each year they organise an annual conference at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme of this year's gathering -their 30th!- is *Hear My People Cry* and it will be held from 18-20th July 2008. Please ring 020 7901 4864 or see www.justice-and-peace.org.uk for more details and to explore how vital the work of social justice is to evangelisation.



NOV News

CASE works closely with the National Office for Vocation. Here they report on a recent Papal letter about vocation and evangelisation.

The Holy Father's letter for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year focuses on the link that exists between vocation and evangelisation. This can perhaps be illustrated best by the story of the Annunciation where Mary both accepts her vocation and is the first to hear the Good News.

The Holy Father tells us in his letter, '**Christian communities which live the missionary dimension of the mystery of the Church, will never be inward looking.**'

Once an individual has heard and responded to the Good News in baptism, they then live out their vocation as a member of the Church which involves the task of evangelisation.



Pause for Thought:

'The Spirit of God fills the universe, and all that is created recognises in Him the source of its own identity, finds in Him its own transcendent expression, turns to Him and awaits Him, invokes Him with its own being.'

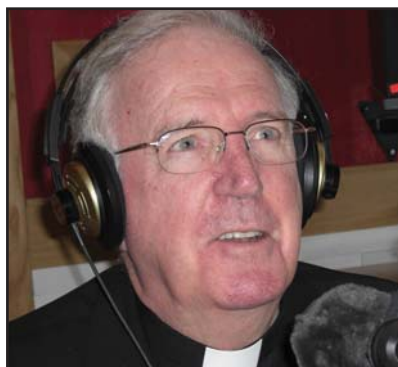
Pope John Paul II,
Dominum et Vivificantem 67



Dates for your diary Spring/Summer 2008, please see:

www.caseresources.org.uk/diary

Going Digital



The challenges presented by emerging technologies, called 'new media', and how Christians are responding to them, are the focus of the 2008 Churches' Media Conference (CMEC).

In a recent survey carried out on gap year students, the electronic accessories that were deemed to be must-haves whilst travelling abroad were ipods and mobile phones. It's in these tools and others that the Churches need to invest their time and evangelistic energies if they are to meet people with the Gospel message, suggest this year's contributors to CMEC.

The conference provides an annual opportunity for Christians and non-Christian media professionals to meet, exchange news and pitch for stories. Among the keynote speakers this year are Rory Cellan-Jones (BBC Technology Correspondent), Fr James Hanvey (Director, Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life) and Andy Griffiee (Controller, BBC English Regions).

Key questions are to be posed about the long term impact of social networking sites like 'Facebook', blogging, gaming and mobile technology. Who is setting the values agenda for these media and in the midst of this is there a future for Public Service Broadcasting?

All these issues are of fundamental importance as, at a national and local level, we seek to engage with people in the spirit of the 'New Evangelisation'. This concerns a re-proclamation of the Gospel message in an accessible way, using contemporary language, signs and symbols.



'Yfaith'

The website for 'tweenagers' has officially been named Yfaith. It is due to be launched in July, with a view to it being used during the long summer holidays.

One of the last stages of the project is building up a bank of contributors to the site, and in particular, young contributors, either between 10-13 years old (the age the site is aimed at), or just above. These contributors will be invited to send in their stories about faith, write film reviews, and comment on current affairs. If you know any potential writers, please contact Emily: emily.davis@caseresources.org.uk

Contacting CASE

114 West Heath Road, London
NW3 7TX
020 8458 3316
info@caseresources.org.uk
www.caseresources.org.uk
www.life4seekers.co.uk
Registered Charity N^o: 1097482



Catechists In Torquay

January is not the obvious month to go to Torquay - unless you are a catechist in the Diocese of Plymouth. Around 150 gathered in the Livermore Hotel for their annual conference. The keynote speakers were Fr Daniel O'Leary from the Diocese of Leeds and CASE's Fr Keith.

'The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ' (John Paul II, *Catechesis Tradendae* 5), therefore catechists are primary evangelisers. This is something which Fr Keith emphasised in his address; he also invited those present to ask themselves what their real desires for their work were, and to have the courage to believe that God would fulfil those desires. If we really want to convey God's love and truth in our catechesis, God will surely answer that prayer.



Good company, good food, good organisation and a welcoming environment all made for a thoroughly enjoyable conference.

Pause for Prayer

Spirit of Christ, stir me;
Spirit of Christ, move me;
Spirit of Christ, fill me;
Spirit of Christ, seal me.
Consecrate in me Your Heart and Will,
O Heavenly Father.
Create in me a fountain of virtues.
Seal my soul as Your own, that Your
reflection in me may be a light for all to see.
Amen.

Prayer taken from www.holyspiritinteractive.net



CaFE Resource

CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) has recently launched a new resource called *Believe - Reflections on the Creed*. It is a six-part series exploring the treasures of our Faith as expressed in the Nicene Creed.



Ideal for Lent, RCIA, small groups, CaFE courses and schools, it is

presented by David Payne (Director of CaFE) in various locations including the Holy Land, Nicaea and Rome.

Each session lasts approximately 35 minutes and features several interviews with Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Cardinal Arinze, Abbot Christopher Jamison, Lord David Alton and Jean Vanier.

To view a trailer, please see: www.faithcafe.org
Alternatively, ring: 01727 823803
Fax: 01727 822837 Email: resources@faithcafe.org