



**Catholic
Agency to
Support
Evangelisation**



CASE NOTES

Issue 7 Spring 2006

★ New National Resource! ★



"Every Catholic should have a copy..." Bishop Malcolm McMahon, Nottingham

When the Bishops set CASE up, the typical "client" they had in mind was a parish priest or lay person who had begun to feel enthusiastic about evangelisation and to ask themselves, "But what can we actually do in practice?"

'Sheltered by His Glory',
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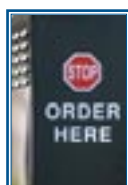
With the launch of our **new Directory of Evangelisation Resources**, we are offering you a wonderful means of seeing for yourself how many opportunities for evangelisation there are. The Directory is as comprehensive as possible, covering methods of reaching out in a parish, programmes of evangelisation, training opportunities, new movements and much more.

Pope Paul VI stressed in *Evangelii Nuntiandi* that Catholics have a very rich idea of what evangelisation is, and that it cannot be reduced to one particular activity. The danger with this is that we can come to see evangelisation as just a label to cover everything we are already doing. Pope John Paul II however, saw it as implying a radical rethink of every aspect of parish and diocesan life.

The Directory therefore has a sharp focus which we hope will enable you to select what is useful to you, to turn the "new ardour" which John Paul called for into "new methods and means."

Mgr Keith Barltrop, CASE Director

Official launch date: May 24th 2006.
Order your printed copy by emailing:
info@caseresources.org.uk or tel. 020 8458 3316.
Also see the CASE website.



Recent CASE Highlights...



- Fr Keith Barltrop spoke at the national "Catholic and Rural" Conference near Taunton on "Evangelisation in a Rural Diocese".
- Clare Ford and Clare Ward presented a warmly received "A Catholic Approach to Prodigals" to over a thousand delegates in Minehead at the ecumenical conference **Building a Prodigal Friendly Church**.
- Fr Philip Knights participated in **The Association of Bridge Building Churches** conference in Cambridge: sharing experiences of congregational mission renewal in England, Germany and Holland.
- CASE led, amongst a series of other diocesan events, a very successful training day themed "Now is the Time!" for over a hundred people in Lincolnshire. And that's just the tip of the iceberg...

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

The Da Vinci Code - a fantastic opportunity!

Millions of people are expected to flock to 'chur'...cinemas in May to see what's set to be the biggest blockbuster film of 2006. But are you and your parish ready to respond to its audiences?



The Da Vinci Code presents itself as an enormous evangelisation opportunity. It is estimated that more than 40 million people worldwide have read the novel and it has been translated into 44 languages. The plot challenges many aspects of the Catholic faith and life. We are busy collating resources to help parishes respond to the questions it raises.

The release date for the film is May 19th and by that time CASE will have on-line a fully resourced web page, a free leaflet for enquirers, materials for parishes, diary events that people can attend, and much more. Bishop Malcolm McMahon, who holds overall responsibility for CASE, said: **"We need to use the film as a positive opportunity through which we can enter debate and lead people to the truth and the Catholic faith. Every parish and group should be encouraged to use, as a priority, the resources which are being made available."**

Nationally a Working Group has been formed to provide a place where resources can be pooled, and as part of a move to coordinate the Church's response to the film. This group is made up of representatives from Opus Dei, the Catholic Truth Society, the Bible Society, the dioceses, the Catholic Communications Network, CASE and Archbishop's House (Westminster). If you in turn have ideas and resources to share please do contact us.

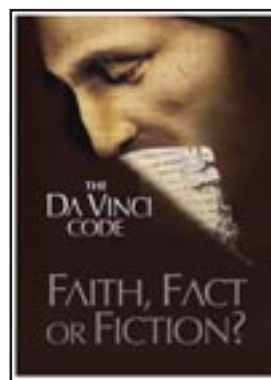


Image above: www.cpo.org.uk
Top: www.maximusmg.com

From May 1st a link to resources can be found on the homepage of: www.life4seekers.co.uk and on CASE's website.

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 News: A Second Seeker Centre is Opened!

Only twelve months since the launch of this pilot project and a second 'Seeker Centre' has already been opened.



Volunteers during a CASE led training day.

Located in the centre of Birmingham, St Michael's Church opened its doors on Ash Wednesday and is hoping to attract spiritual seekers and those interested in exploring the Catholic faith.

An extension of the work of the *Catholic Enquiry Office*, the project is being run in partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI's). Clare Ward from CASE has already run evangelisation training for the local team involving both a day and a weekend commitment and more is to follow. The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham, said: **"This is a promising development and has my full support. Christ calls us to reach out to and accompany those who do not know Him within a life of faith. I encourage you to invite people to use the centre and to attend events."**

The first event took place on April 8th and was designed to offer a welcoming and informal space where visitors could ask questions. The Birmingham centre follows a successful pilot initiative which was run in North Wales last year.

Would you like to explore launching your own centre? For more information, please contact us at CASE.

January saw the launch of our latest CEO national outreach initiative called **"Don't Worry Be Happy Day"** which stimulated over 20 000 unique web visitors! Check out the resource page found at: www.life4seekers.co.uk



Making Everybody Welcome



"Recognise your power, the power of determined hearts" was Bishop John Hine's plea to participants in the Making Everybody Welcome Working Conference in January.

Preaching during the concluding Mass, Bishop Hine said, **"Your work here is the beginning of something enormous, which could bring about tremendous changes in our Church."**

Over 70 participants from across England and Wales, gathered from January 20th to 22nd to address the challenges and devise strategies for parishes committed to welcoming and supporting families with specific needs. These included families experiencing learning difficulties, mental illness, bereavement, separation, divorce and remarriage, as well as families of young people, of people with homosexual orientation and families who lack a shared faith in God.

Keynote speaker, Fr Daniel O'Leary (former Episcopal Vicar for Christian Formation, Leeds Diocese) said, **"Without being too dramatic about it, I feel this is a cutting edge moment of the life of the Church in England and Wales."**

CASE was delighted to assist at such a stimulating and challenging event; **"this is the Catholic Church at its best,"** as Adrian Thacker of the Catholic Children's Society put it. The Everybody's Welcome Working Group (which includes Clare Ford from CASE) are now busy preparing the materials produced at the conference for publication and parish use.

Bishop John Hine and Anita Dowsing, a Catechist from East Anglia Diocese and one of the group facilitators.



Faith and Culture Comment: God is love, even in a world of hate



www.istockphoto.com

What a world we live in! The news from Iraq is of bombs, chaos and death; cynics deride Tony Blair for accepting that God is his judge; the Government is failing to meet its targets on child poverty; doctors want to let an infant die against the wishes of his parents; Ireland continues to be rocked by stories of abusing priests; and two men are arrested for burning down churches.

This is the world which Pope Benedict XVI addresses in his first encyclical. He writes:

"In a world where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence ... I wish in my first Encyclical to speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in turn must share with others." (Deus Caritas Est 1)

As Cardinal Ratzinger, the Holy Father had a reputation for rigorous and difficult theological thinking; here he surprises us with a remarkably accessible document which is short and clear and communicates a delightful warmth as well as profound insight.

The encyclical gives us a careful analysis of love from philosophy and theology. But that analysis doesn't stay in the library - it reaches out practically to those in need.

In my youth there was a song which declared 'what the world needs now is love, sweet love'. That is an urgent and practical necessity. It is the duty of Christians.



Image: Catholic Truth Society

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



Poor Clares' National TV Debut

Enclosed life is to feature on national television shortly as the Poor Clares in Arundel appear in a three part series.

Following the success of *The Monastery*, four female volunteers were invited to spend 40 days in the enclosure with camera crew in tow to document their spiritual adventure.

This series presents us with an unprecedented evangelisation opportunity. CASE is working alongside the community, the Catholic Communications Network and the BBC to help the community respond to viewers.

Why not organise a "Convent Night"? Invite people round to watch the programmes with you? See the tailor-made resources from May 1st at: www.life4seekers.co.uk



Sr Angela, The Abbess in her office
© Tiger Aspect/Elizabeth Zeschin

Good News about those who give Good News



You don't have to adopt a complicated programme of evangelisation, or wait for your bishop or priest to tell you how to share the Good News.

Proof of this is a letter we received recently from two Catholics in Warwick, who, inspired by Pope John Paul's call to put out into the deep, and by an article Fr Keith

wrote for the Universe, just decided to go out door-knocking on six evenings last year.

"Tough but worthwhile" was how they described the experience. They concentrated on asking people's opinions rather than preaching, and were amazed at their ignorance about Jesus, but detected a growing thoughtfulness as regards the meaning of life. Their sense of God's working, though often in hidden ways, was strengthened by discovering recently that five other parishes in their diocese are doing the same work.

For more information please contact: keith.statham@ntlworld.com

The Monastery Re-visited

Did you find BBC 2's *The Monastery* compelling viewing last year? Are you dying to find out where the volunteers went from there? A "where are they now" programme is to be shown in May. CASE will be making available free resources to parishes and enquirers. See our free leaflet and web resources found at:

<http://www.life4seekers.co.uk/TheMonasteryFreebies.htm>
(Image: free CEO leaflet for enquirers).



Inspiring Gathering in the Eternal City

Why evangelise if God offers salvation to all? Although many people might not put it exactly like that, this question is surely one of the hidden obstacles to evangelisation today.

It was also the title of a three day Conference organised by the Emmanuel Community in Rome this February, which Fr Keith participated in, moderating one of the sessions and leading a discussion group.

An amazing range of speakers, from Nicky Gumbel of Alpha, to professors at the Lateran University, took part. One of the clear insights which emerged was that, if we take evangelisation seriously, nothing can ever be the same again. Every aspect of parish life should be seen as an opportunity to reach out, and every aspect of formation in schools, colleges, seminaries and parishes should be re-thought in the light of the great commission:

"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News."



www.istockphoto.com

"NOV News"

CASE works alongside the National Office for Vocation. Here's news about their brand new gap year website for young people...

The National Office for Vocation recently met with its ecumenical partners to discuss the role that gap-years can play as part of young people's vocational journeys. A good number of those who are taking gap-years nowadays make important vocational decisions as a result of their experiences. For some this includes full-time service in the Church.

Young people who opt for a faith-based gap year, for example in a Catholic youth centre, not only gain valuable life skills but can also have their faith nurtured and developed. NOV, together with Catholic Youth Services and other agencies, have begun work in setting up a website for this constituent group. Watch this space for more...it should be launched over the summer.



Young person at World Youth Day, Cologne 2005

Pause for Thought:

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him."

Pope Benedict XVI,
Inauguration Homily, April 2006



The Global Mission Network



There has been much talk about the 'Ecumenical Architecture' in Britain and Ireland and changes are happening...

One of the fruits of lengthy debates is that on the 3rd May 2006 the Churches' Commission on Mission is becoming the Global Mission Network. This creates an ecumenical space where

Churches and agencies can collaborate in mission.

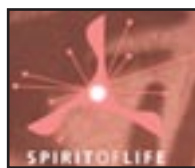
Global (lest there be any confusion!) includes England and Wales. God's mission crosses all barriers and touches all territories. CASE's, Fr Philip Knights, will continue to have a special interest in Ecumenical Mission Accompaniment in Britain and Ireland (Building Bridges of Hope) and the 'Four Nations Evangelisation Forum'. The Network will also continue to be informed by international contacts and insights. (Fr Keith will continue to be involved with the China Forum).

Mission is at the heart of the work of both CASE and the Global Mission Network. The wonderful works of God and his calling for us to take part in all the dimensions of his mission shape what we do. It is our joy to work with partners in holistic evangelising mission.

Network may seem something of a buzzword but it is an important signal of what kind of beast the Global Mission Network will be. This is about the flow of information for a purpose. This is about relationships and connections. It is about flexibility and accessible communication. All this concerns helping Churches and Agencies with the tasks of mission.

Spirituality Fair

Meditation, aromatherapy, sculpture, crystals and 'The Green Man' are a flavour of the eclectic mix on offer at a unique 'evangelistic' Spirituality Fair on May 1st.



CASE is working in partnership with Coventry Cathedral and ecumenical partners to provide an opportunity for people to explore Christian spirituality.

The event is called "Spirit of Life" and among the Catholic contributors are Fr Abbot Christopher Jamison of Worth, Sarah de Nordwall (a Christian Bard) and members of the CASE team. Director of CASE, Fr Keith Bartrop, said:
"Spirit of Life lies at the cutting edge of contemporary evangelisation. The programme is creative and innovative. I encourage you to support this exciting venture."

Contacting CASE



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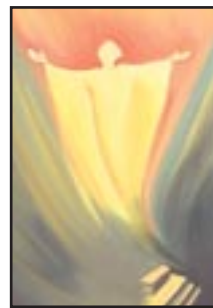


Leeds Diocese... "Come and See"

DVDs, scripture resources, study materials and training days are just some of the things that are being offered 'Yorkshire way' as part of the launch of "Come and See."

The process of renewal lasts five years and it aims to help all tiers of the diocese be renewed in faith and equipped to evangelise.

Each year is themed and covers: scripture and prayer, repentance and reconciliation, being a local Church, catechesis and commitment, mission and evangelisation. Tailor-made resources are being created to cover key times in the Church's liturgical year.



'The Resurrection',
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Josephine Stow is the Diocesan Coordinator for Evangelisation, and works with Fr John Wilson, the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation. She said, "**The team are delighted with everyone's enthusiasm. The response so far has exceeded our expectations. One deanery has even organised their own 'Come and See' weekend. It's wonderful.**"

CASE is liaising with the diocesan team. For more information please see:
www.comeandsee.org.uk

The "Three O'Clock Prayer"

"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in You."

From the Diary of St Faustina

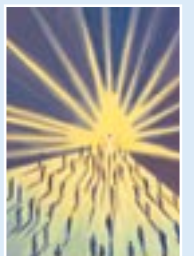


Order Yours Today... Evangelisation Directory



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

Two years in the making, this new 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.



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To order your copy please contact the CASE Office, details opposite.