

## Give Thanks

As we travel the length and breadth of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we come into contact with ordinary people carrying out extraordinary work in their various roles within parishes and deaneries. The following story is a perfect example of what Youth and Children's Ministry is all about.

There is an old saying that goes, 'If you treat a person as they could be and should be, they will become what they could be and should be.' But far too often we fall into the trap of giving up on ourselves, and others. A timely word of encouragement to someone could make a dramatic difference to them.

We often joke and say, 'The older I get, the better I was.' Perhaps, when we look at ourselves in the mirror and we who look back at ourselves, we recognise missed opportunities. Maybe had we received an encouraging word from someone, a loved one, one of our peers, or even a stranger, we may have followed through and realised one of our dreams.

*Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the famous 19th-century poet and artist, was once approached by an elderly man. The old fellow had some sketches and drawings that he wanted Rossetti to look at and tell him if they were any good, or if they at least showed potential talent.*

*Rossetti looked them over carefully. After the first few, he knew that they were worthless, showing not the least sign of artistic talent. But Rossetti was a kind man, and he told the elderly man as gently as possible that the pictures were without much value and showed little talent. He was sorry, but he could not lie to the man. The visitor was disappointed, but seemed to expect Rossetti's judgment.*

*He then apologised for taking up Rossetti's time, but would he just look at a few more drawings - these done by a young art student? Rossetti looked over the second batch of sketches and immediately became enthusiastic over the talent they revealed. 'These', he said, 'oh, these are good. This young student has great talent. He should be given every help and encouragement in his career as an artist. He has a great future if he will work hard and stick to it'. Rossetti could see that the old fellow was deeply moved. 'Who is this fine young artist?' he asked. 'Your son?' 'No,' said the old man sadly. 'It is me - 40 years ago. If only I had heard your praise then! For you see, I got discouraged and gave up - too soon.'*

As Christians we are blessed in the knowledge that God never gives up on us. God is constantly encouraging us to use our talents to make a difference.

Imagine the transformation in our communities and the power that could be harnessed, if we practised encouragement of ourselves and others!

As we write, our archdiocese is hosting international speaker, Leisa Anslinger, an expert on the principals of stewardship. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing your *time, talent and treasure* in the work you do for the children and young people in your community. It is your encouragement of your colleagues, families, children and young people of your faith community which makes all the difference. Knowing that our work is blessed with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and that we are never alone in what we do, gives us the inspiration and energy to continue.

To continue to support you in these very important ministries, plans are well underway for **YCM Training Day 2010 to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February**. It will include the key elements of prayer, formation, keynote speakers, workshops, displays, as well as opportunities to network, respond creatively and buy resources.

### DATE CLAIMER

youth & children's ministry  
**training day**

**Saturday, 13th February 2010**

# Children's Ministry

Mid-year holidays are upon us! Where has the semester gone? We hope that you have had a rewarding time with the children in your religion classes and that you enjoy a well-deserved break. Here is an anecdote from a dedicated RE teacher. *A past pupil served me recently at the grocery checkout and after we recognised each other, he asked whether I still went to church. When I said 'Yes', he said 'I go to church now and I gave the talk last Sunday. Thanks, you were so motivational and inspirational.'* What a 'wow' moment that was! Don't ever think RE in state schools is a waste of time! God delights in you!

## Sunshine Coast Seminar

What a wonderful roll-up on a Saturday morning - 50 people - from across the region gathered for a *Fan the Flame* workshop. Thanks to the organisers, especially Nicky Ross. We are all filmstars now!

## RENEW Conference - Change of Date!!!

Same venue but a week earlier than we first advised! Mark your diaries for **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** at **Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield**. The theme will be *Engaging every child* and a Date Claimer has been sent to every state school in Queensland. Make sure your school puts the notice on the sign-on book for all RE teachers to see. Julie Savage, who was so popular at last year's Conference is coming back and will offer sound advice on classroom management while your RENEW team members will run mock-up classes for you to observe and critique.

We have decided to save money and trees by not printing a conference brochure this year, but will ask you to register on-line at [www.renewconference.org.au](http://www.renewconference.org.au) This site will be operational from early

August. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact us and we will assist you to register. If you do not wish to put your credit card details on-line, then you can print a copy of the registration form and send it in to us with your cheque. Cost \$35 including lunch! The first 40 country delegates will again be able to attend free of charge! Early-bird registration by 18<sup>th</sup> September. Registrations close 9<sup>th</sup> October.

## Keeping Families Connected

So your parish has had big celebrations for Confirmation and First Communion and now you're wondering if you'll ever see those children and their families again? Is there anything the parish can do to keep these families connected and involved? It's a question we are asked over and over again. The answer is YES YES YES! **The insert contains lots of ideas to kick start your thinking and your planning for keeping families connected.**

## Training for Sacramental team members

Our Children's Ministry Team is offering training sessions for new and established sacramental teams from July through to September. Participants at these sessions will also have the opportunity to view our latest sacramental resources and discuss ways of most effectively using these resources in their own parish. Please come along and bring your whole team. This is a perfect opportunity to review, refresh and renew your sacramental teams. Invite parents whose children have just been involved in the sacramental process to come along as well. They may have some valuable insights to offer and may also be willing to 'put up their hand' to join your sacramental team for a couple of years. See the calendar for dates and venues.

## Building Families Seminars:

Three all-day Saturday *Building Families* seminars have been held at **Brighton, Booval** and **Manly**. We have teamed up with Gwen Winterscheidt and Ray Campbell from JP11 Centre for Family and Life and Tess Rowley from Centacare and had a wonderful time with children and adults. The sessions offer participants time to reflect on what it means to be a Christian family today. The children's program offers fun and faith building activities such as prayer, games, singing, dancing, storytelling, crafts and bubble blowing. One family travelled from Toowoomba to participate. The next seminars in September and October will be held at **Marsden, Hervey Bay** and **Clear Island Waters**. Come along with your whole family and join in the fun! For more details see <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/familyandlife/>

## Network of Biblical Storytellers

This year Queensland will be hosting the annual gathering of storytellers from around Australia and New Zealand. Anyone interested in storytelling and the bible would enjoy this weekend. This will be held from **18-20 September** at **Alexandra Parklands Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast**. Dr Kevin Treston, well-known educator will be our keynote speaker. We encourage all teachers of RE, leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word and Readers of the Word, to come along and enjoy a rich feast of storytelling in the company of people who love to tell and listen to stories. Workshops to skill you in storytelling will be offered for experienced and beginners alike. For more information phone Carole 3336 9161 (work) 0400332928 (mobile).



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# Youth Ministry

## Come, Walk in the Light

Pentecost Sunday saw the release of [the Archbishop's Pastoral Message to Young People](#). The video and text can be downloaded from [bne.catholic.net.au/messagetoyouth](http://bne.catholic.net.au/messagetoyouth) You can also download discussion questions related to the statement that can be used in your faith community. The message can also be viewed on [YouTube](#).

In the message, the Archbishop launched [Come, Walk in the Light](#), the next phase (2009-2011) in the Archdiocese of Brisbane's approach to ministry and evangelization with Catholic young people. *Come, Walk in the Light* flows from the archdiocesan vision of *Jesus Communion Mission* and the archdiocesan framework for ministry with young people.

Through *Come, Walk in the Light*, the Archdiocese of Brisbane will focus on inviting young people to ...

**Connect** with the message of Jesus  
**Grow** in knowledge and faith  
**Choose** to respond to the call of the Gospel  
**Go** out to others with a sense of purpose & mission

The Archbishop is encouraging every parish, deanery and ethnic community, all youth movements and organisations, and each church agency working with young people to find ways to help young people *Connect, Grow, Choose and Go*.

For its part, the archdiocese will offer support through:

- Large catechesis gatherings
- Training events
- Leadership opportunities
- Support networks

You can download the brochure and register your interest at [bne.catholic.net.au/comewalkinthelight](http://bne.catholic.net.au/comewalkinthelight)

It would be greatly appreciated if you could raise awareness about this project in your community.

## Facebook - Be Connected

The Youth Ministry staff has set up a Facebook group [Brisbane Catholic Youth Ministry Network](#), which is constantly being updated with events happening in the archdiocese. Please let us know if you have any events you would like us to promote and we will look at adding them to the page.

## Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Days

The Youth Ministry staff are running regular Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Days, providing hands on practical ideas which can be implemented in youth ministry in your parish or deanery. So far this year we have covered topics including:

- Ministry with young people in the Archdiocese of Brisbane
- The archdiocesan framework for ministry with young people and the national youth ministry vision statement
- Planning events big and small
- Gathered & non-gathered approaches to ministry with young people
- Breaking open *Come, Walk in the Light*.

These days are only \$10 including morning tea & lunch and are a great opportunity for formation, support and networking. Contact us for more details. Future dates for Inservices are listed in the calendar on the back page of this newsletter.

## Parish & Deanery Visits

While traveling around the archdiocese, we have been inspired by all the efforts taking place in ministry with young people and the enthusiasm of the individuals and teams involved.

The past few months have resulted in communications and travel involving the parishes of Surfers Paradise, Victoria Point, Coolangatta/Tugun and we have been consulting with North Country, Brisbane North East, Central, Brisbane East, Brisbane West, Redland Bayside and Logan Deaneries.

The Youth Ministry staff can assist with resources covering all facets of developing and reviewing a Youth Ministry Plan. Examples of services include:

- Supplying information to assist with employing Youth Ministry Workers
- Supporting young adult groups with resources for faith sharing
- Delivering formation for Youth Ministry Teams
- Mentoring individuals in their youth ministry roles
- Attending youth ministry events
- Speaking at Parish Council Meetings about how YCM can support a parish to develop ministry with young people and the role of Youth Ministry Development Officers.

## Movers & Shakers 2009

*Movers & Shakers*, the state wide youth leadership training program, was held in April, offering participants the opportunity to reflect on their gifts and develop their skills in leadership and community development.

Reflections from the young people who took up the challenge included:

'I really enjoyed everything, especially facing challenges and sharing in a small group and the debriefings.'

'I really liked the personal reflection cause I had time to think deeply about everything that happened.'

'In general the leadership sessions brought new and interesting things to the table. I learnt things about leadership I never knew about'

'The sessions definitely redefined my impression of leadership and how to be a good leader.'

'Fun and gave me lots of ideas for youth group games.'

'The small group was a great environment to share and reflect. It provided a network for great support, trust and challenge.'

'Loved it. Learnt so much about myself, others, leadership and community.'

## Serving God's People

21 people have enrolled in (Cert III Christian Ministry & Theology) *Serving God's People*, with a particular focus on ministry with young people. The material presented to date has evoked enthusiastic discussion and deep reflections. The shared insights, learnings and questions generated are enabling all involved to deepen their understanding of ministry and highlight what each person requires to participate fully in ministry.

The participants are growing in awareness that they are on a spiritual journey and that this journey is not taken alone. It is in an ever evolving relationship with our loving God and each other that enables us to take on a specific ministry in carrying out God's work in each of our communities.

Feel free to get in contact with us should you have questions or comments regarding any of these initiatives.



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**Anita  
Hendrie**  
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# Calendar

**July 11** **Serving God's People (Module 4)**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* CMPC, 333 Given Tce PADDINGTON  
*RSVP* Donna Longland Ph 3109 6800

**July 21** **Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Day**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* CMPC, 333 Given Tce PADDINGTON  
*RSVP* Donna Longland Ph 3109 6800

**July 22** **Sacramental Teams Training**  
*Venue:* Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC)  
 333 Given Terrace, Rosalie 7-9pm  
*RSVP* by 19 July to Percy - Ph 3336 9168

**July 30** **Sesquicentenary Schools Event  
 Sesquicentenary Mass of Thanksgiving**

**Aug 15** **Serving God's People (Module 5)**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* CMPC, 333 Given Tce PADDINGTON  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**Aug 18** **Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Day**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* CMPC, 333 Given Tce PADDINGTON  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**August 20** **Sacramental Teams Training**  
*Venue:* St Eugene de Mazenod Parish 7-9pm  
 72a Dunbeath Drive, Burpengary  
*RSVP* by 17 August to Percy - Ph 3336 9168

**August 27** **Children's Ministry Team goes to Gayndah!**  
*Time:* 9am - 3pm (Biblical Storytelling with St Joseph's kids!)  
*Time:* 6.30pm - 8.30pm (Workshop for parishioners)

**September 3** **Sacramental Teams Training**  
*Time:* 7-9pm  
*Venue:* St Bernard's Parish, Klumpp Rd Upper Mt Gravatt  
*RSVP* by 1<sup>st</sup> September to Percy - Ph 3336 9168

**September 8** **Sacramental Teams Training**  
*Time:* 7-9pm  
*Venue:* St Brigid's Parish Hall, McLaren Rd, Nerang  
*RSVP* to Percy please by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**September 15** **Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Day**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* TBA  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**Sept 18–20** **Network of Biblical Storytellers Gathering**  
*Venue:* United Church Conference Centre, Alexandra Parklands, Alexandra Headlands  
*Registration: Phone Carole 3336 9161 (work)*

**September 19** **Serving God's People (Module 6)**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* CMPC, 333 Given Tce PADDINGTON  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**October 11** **Social Justice Youth Event**  
 Watch this space...

**October 13** **Youth Ministry Worker Inservice Day**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* TBA  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**October 16** **RENEW Conference**  
*Venue:* Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield  
 Early Bird Registration by 18th September

**October 17** **Serving God's People (Module 7)**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* TBA  
*RSVP* Ph 3109 6800

**November 14** **Serving God's People (Module 8)**  
*Time:* 9.30am - 3.30pm  
*Venue:* TBA  
*RSVP* Donna Longland Ph 3109 6800

**2010**  
**Feb 13** **YCM Training Day**  
*Venue:* ACU, Nudgee Rd, Banyo

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please visit <https://lists.catholic.net.au/mailman/listinfo/ycm-news> and follow the instructions to subscribe.

**150 Years Celebrations**



Visit the sesquicentenary website, [www.bne.catholic.net.au/150](http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/150) to keep up to date with what's happening and how you can get involved!

Building Families seminars		
Brisbane South	Sat 26 September MARSDEN	St Maximilian Kolbe, 26 McCarthy Rd.
North Country	Sat 10 October PIALBA	Hervey Bay City, Bryant St.
Gold Coast	Sat 31 October CLEAR ISLAND WATERS	Sacred Heart, 50 Fairway Dr.
Time: 9.30am–3.30pm. RSVP Gwen ph 3366 2188		



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