



CATHOLIC OUTREACH

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2011

As I reflect during Advent on the past year and look forward to celebrating the coming of Christ at Christmas I can only conclude that 2011 has been another busy year with many people experiencing the love of Christ through the exceptional work of parish care programs and the consistent hard work of Co-Ordinators and Volunteers.

During the year we have enjoyed visiting many parishes throughout the Archdiocese, including as far afield as Kalgoorlie. New care programs have now commenced operation in the Mount Lawley Parish (St Paul's Community Care) and the Claremont Parish (St Thomas Care) and we are excited to be working with a number of other parishes who are considering the introduction of a care program in the New Year.

Due to increasing demand the John Paul Care program, in the Willetton Parish, has expanded the services of its Journey to Peace Support Group (formerly Bereavement Support Group) to include other grief and loss such as separation and divorce, loss of jobs, physical and mental illness.

A conference for Co-Ordinators entitled 'Live in the Present Moment' was held in May which was followed by a Springtime Gathering for Co-Ordinators in September.

We were pleased to receive a Mandate for Catholic Outreach from the Archbishop in April. The Mandate was formerly presented at a Commissioning Mass for Agencies in November.

In accordance with our Constitution we have seen the retirement from the Committee of Management of Brian Parry (Chair), Fr Thai Vu and Sr Catherine Ryan. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and contribution. During the year we were pleased to welcome Sr Marion Beard PBVM, Roger Walsh and Fr Karol Kulczyck SDS to the Committee of Management and look forward to continuing our work with them.

Finally on behalf of the Committee of Management and all those you have helped we wish you and your family a holy, joyful and peaceful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Peter Mc Minn



Hello Peter. Just a little message from one of the regular volunteers, and Special Minister who visits an elderly lady every week. I thought it was quite beautiful. God Bless.
(from Helen Lezniak, Co-Ordinator of Xavier Care Armadale)

The Gift of being a Xavier Care Volunteer

Jesus in His Scriptures, said love one another as I have loved you, and that is exactly what a volunteer is about doing the work of God and loving his neighbour. Jesus was also full of love and compassion for all mankind, again as a volunteer goes out to help his fellow man, the volunteer is also demonstrating love and compassion.

Each week as I go out as a volunteer to visit an elderly lady to give her the Eucharist in communion, I experience the presence of Christ in the Eucharist as well as in her person, she expresses so much love and gratitude towards me for bringing communion to her. It is her only contact with the parish and Christ as she eagerly waits for my visit every week. I feel very humble and privileged as a volunteer to share Jesus love and compassion with another person.

The joy and gratitude she expresses every week is a gift in itself to experience the presence of Christ in that person. I can only encourage others to join Xavier Care to experience the love and compassion of Jesus.

Did you know?

Website Statistics
January – October 2011

Average daily visits 73
Average monthly visits 2,230

New Chairperson



We take great pleasure in congratulating and welcoming Margaret Handyside, who joined the Committee of Management in 2008, to the role of Chairperson.



Co-Ordinators Conference

Live in the Present Moment



In May a Co-Ordinators Conference was held entitled Live in the Present Moment at the beautiful beachside Retreat Centre of St John of God at Shoalwater Bay. Keynote speakers Celia Joyce M.P.S. and Stephen Truscott S.M., Ph.D. from the Fullness of Life Centre engaged 30 attendees with a workshop about the possibilities of living life more fully in the present moment using the Liframe as a tool.

A workshop on the contemporary Church in Australia was given by Brian Parry, Chair of Catholic Outreach. Jim Smith shared the work of Catholic Earthcare Australia which responds to Pope John Paul II's call for an "ecological conversion" of the world's Catholics. Peter Mc Minn, Director facilitated a workshop relating directly to operational aspects of care programs.



Spring Gathering

In mid September a Springtime Gathering for Co-Ordinators was held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Claire Sherwood, Dementia and Memory Community Centre Co-ordinator from the Alzheimer's Australia WA addressed the Co-Ordinators on 'Dementia Care - Information for Volunteers'. It was a very informative presentation about the effects of dementia on the sufferers themselves, their carers and family members.

Sr Marion Beard gave a very enlightening insight into the operation of 'The Sister's Place', a night shelter for homeless women and her direct involvement as a volunteer. This event was very well attended with approximately 25 people present.



Committee of Management



Margaret Handyside (Chair), Peter Mc Minn (Director), Sarah Manfield
Adrian Irdi, Sr Marion Beard PBVM
Roger Walsh, Fr Karol Kulczyck SDS

Committee Members Retirement

We would like to thank and record our appreciation for the contributions made by the following Committee Members who retired during the year. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.



Brian Parry joined the Committee of Management in December 2004 and was elected Chairperson in November 2005. Following 7 years of dedicated service to Catholic Outreach, Brian has announced his retirement. His leadership and generous contribution has been invaluable and will have far reaching effects.



Sr Catherine Ryan joined the Committee of Management in August 2009 and retired in May 2011 to undertake sabbatical studies in Ireland and Europe.



Rev Fr Thai Vu, Parish Priest of the Willetton Parish has retired after being on the Committee of Management since July 2006.



Blessing Prayer

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half-truths, superficial relationships,
so that you will live deep with your heart.

Grant us courage

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

Grant us determination

May God bless you with tears to shed for those
who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and poverty,
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort
them and change their pain to joy.

Grant us compassion

And may God bless you with the foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Grant us a giving Spirit

Presentation of Mandates - Commissioning Mass for Agencies Nov 2011

