

PARISH EVANGELISING CELLS HOPE FOR THE CHURCH

Carole Little from St Peter's, Rushden reports on the inspiring conference she attended 20th-23rd May 2013 at St Eustorgio's in Milan and the effect it has had on their group and the parish since.

On the 19th May four people from our parish, including our parish priest Fr Joe Walsh travelled to St Eustorgio's in Milan to participate in the 24th Annual Seminar for Parish Evangelising Cells. We were part of a group of 31 people made up of Fr Victor Vella and 14 of his parishioners from Holy Innocents', Orpington. The group also included two other priests, a deacon and lay people from other parishes interested in exploring the cells as a possible model for church renewal. Fr. Joe wants to start cells in our parish, as a means of evangelising and renewing the parish, so we were keen to find out more and to see how it would be possible to bring this to fruition within our parish. Our first impression was how welcoming everyone was at St. Eustorgio and that this was a parish on fire with the love of God and how eager they were to share this love with others. During the week there were many wonderful speakers, some were from within the parish, some were priests and of course Don Pigi, the founder of the parish cells at St Eustorgio. The thing that struck us the most was the willingness of the speakers to share their stories with us and it was very humbling to hear priests sharing on such a personal and deep level.

Inspired to share our testimonies too

Although we knew it would be difficult to share our story with others, after listening to some wonderful testimonies we heard we came away determined to try ourselves afterwards. Over the week we heard about our mission to evangelise and that it is everyone's responsibility to do this, but how do we start? First we have to begin with ourselves. For a couple of us we had to ask the question "Do we really believe



Maureen and Roger Evans (third and fifth back row from left)

that God loves us despite our faults and failings?" If the answer is yes, do we then have the confidence to share that love with others? That was the biggest challenge for us over the week.

Highlight of our stay was a visit to a cell group

The highlight of our stay was a visit to a cell group. Each of us was allocated a different cell group to visit. One was the original cell formed over twenty four years ago. The members were all in their late seventies and eighties, but had lost none of their enthusiasm and joy in the service of the Lord. The meeting took place in the leader's home and I was overwhelmed by the welcome I and another participant received. I was staggered to learn that one of the members makes 800 sandwiches a week with the help of the other members to feed the homeless in their area. This answers any would be criticism that cells are too inward looking. I had a wonderful evening of prayer, praise and teaching. Before I left I was invited to stay in touch with the group and was assured of their prayers as we take our first tentative steps to form cells in our parish. Another cell group one of us visited was situated in a block of flats outside the city. It contained a very mixed group of people from all levels of society. However their differences melted as they prayed and learned about God together. Their love and consideration for each other's problems was totally genuine and touching to watch. There was a real sense of trust and comradeship within the group. Like the previous group, they were very welcoming and they were all keenly interested to know how we get on in the future. They have subsequently written to us, assuring us of their prayers in the future.

How do we make this vision a reality in our parish?

Now we have returned home the challenge is how do we make this vision a reality in our parish. The temptation is to form cells before we have put the building blocks in place.

Cells, we were told, are built upon Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. The whole parish has to be involved in praying for the success of the cell group system within the parish.

Daily Adoration and parish mission on evangelisation

At the instigation of Fr. Joe we now have daily Adoration and in September Fr Jim McManus CSsR has been invited to give a parish mission on evangelisation. This has led us to looking at our own commitment to prayer. How much time do we spend deepening our relationship with Jesus? How can we organise our time better so that we can attend Mass more often in the week and spend time praying before the Blessed Sacrament? Are we making room for the Holy Spirit to influence our daily lives and indeed inviting Him to do so?

How can we make our liturgy more joyful?

In Milan a lot was said about liturgy. How can we make it more joyful, more meaningful? How can we help people make the connection between what happens in liturgy and their everyday lives? Liturgy must help all people, young and old, to deepen their relationship with Jesus. Liturgy must enliven and not deaden. Dom Pigi told the priests that they have to produce a liturgy every Sunday that, "sends their parishioners home with their hearts singing."

Leaders' formation

A group of 10 to 12 of us now meet fortnightly, in the parish, after Adoration. To begin with we were looking at the leaders' manual, for cell formation but found the language and translation unhelpful. We are now using "Transforming Your Parish" by Michael Hurley. This utilises the principles of the manual but in a more practical format. We hope this process will equip and prepare us for taking on the challenge of perhaps becoming team leaders and running the first cell groups in our parish, when we have completed the course and discussed the possibilities with Father Joe. Summing up our visit, we can say that we have been greatly challenged by what we saw and heard in Milan, but it has also given us great hope for the future of our parish and Church. Just knowing that there are so many wonderful people and priests with a vision of how the Church could and should be and are willing to work together to make this vision a reality, spurs us on to make cell groups a reality in our parish. Our group are planting the seeds for the future, we may not see the seeds come to fruition, but we have great confidence that the Holy Spirit will shower our parish with many blessings in the months and years to come.

Next year's International Workshop on Parish Evangelisation cells, at St Eustorgio will be 2nd-5th June 2014. There is also a weekend in Ireland 4th-6th October 2013



CaFE MISSIONS Tim Stevens reports

For the last four years or so CaFE have been running parish missions with a difference round the country. The feedback has been very positive. Parishes and deaneries of all sizes have been revitalized and renewed in their mission. The CaFE team tries to offer "bespoke" missions to suit the particular needs of each parish or group of parishes. The team is David Payne, Steve Murray, who does mimes, myself and Jenny Baker. Sometimes others such as David Wells and John Pridmore will join us for a particular mission.

We particularly try and reach those who normally wouldn't come to a mission by including modern, relevant topics such as "Your children and Faith", or "Handling Life's Challenges". As an ex-police officer I often do sessions on drug proofing your kids which parents find very helpful. Whilst clearly rooted in the Sacraments and the Teaching of the Church all these sessions are run CaFE style, informally and with lots of humour. Each day incorporates day time and evening sessions and opportunities to work with children and teenagers in the local schools and parish if required. Generally missions are 4-5 days long or a "Mass plus mini mission incorporating all weekend Masses and Monday afternoon, evening sessions plus schools. Just before the summer holidays we did a mission at St Joan of Arc parish in Farnham, Surrey. Alastair Emblem the co-ordinator of it was really delighted and commented, "The mission has been a real milestone in our history. There is no doubt that many here have engaged with their faith at a much deeper level, making commitments to developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ". The highpoint of the week he said was the "Fun Day of Faith for All" on the Sunday with a family Mass, picnic in the church grounds and talks for the adults and special activities for the children. He added, "Our parish priest Fr Niven has been enthusiastically supportive of the mission and is delighted that it is already bearing fruit. A new men's group is being formed and there are plans for regular all day adoration and the parish plans to run the CaFE "Sacraments" course in the autumn."

Typically CaFE supports a parish from its early planning through a visioning evening and publicity to invitations at all the Masses a few weeks prior to the event. **Should you wish to talk to CaFE about a mission please ring 0845 050 9428 or email info@faithcafe.org mentioning if you heard about it in Goodnews.**

tenten

Shaun Growney interviews Martin O'Brien the founder of Ten Ten theatre company, which uses drama to preach the gospel to young people, and finds out how it all began.

"I have come so that they might have life and life to the full"

John 10:10

When it was launched in 2007, the TenTen theatre company took its name from this reference to John's gospel to reflect its mission. The new born company wanted to bring life "to the full", especially to young people, through the medium of drama. Since then, it has touched the lives of some 90,000 schoolchildren and their parents throughout the UK, by bringing challenging drama into schools on such subjects as chastity, abortion and moral responsibility. The company has also worked in parishes and young offender institutions and has presented plays at major theatre venues including the Leicester Square Theatre in the West End.



Below: Martin, his mum Anna(left) and sister Clare(right)

So how did it all begin? By his own account, Martin was a rather shy schoolboy, but he was attracted to the theatre early in life when his family took him off to the Liverpool Empire to see Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream-coat. So, when his school decided to stage the musical, he went along to audition and landed the part of Pharaoh, which suited his love for Elvis and the rock and roll scene. He was just fourteen, a good catholic but not yet one more angel in heaven! Such was his taste for the stage after this debut that he started looking for professional acting opportunities in the North West and, such was his talent, he got some parts and became an equity accredited actor. Then, three years after "Joseph", when the prospect of university was looming, he (rather cheekily) wrote to Bill Kenwright, the impresario, as a young seventeen year old and asked to be considered for the cast of Blood Brothers which was running in the West End. To his surprise, and that of family and friends, Mr Kenwright agreed to see him and he was given

a part. Martin's career as a professional actor took off from there and the idea of going to university was dropped.

Many temptations in London's theatre-land at the age of eighteen

Living and working in London's theatre-land at the age of eighteen was quite an awakening for Martin with many temptations to test his strength of character. It was natural to stay up until the early hours after the show was done and then to sleep into the afternoons. Yet, throughout these early years he always made a point of going to Mass every Sunday. He didn't stick to one parish though. He used the A-to-Z to find his way to different Masses each week. He

says that this was a period when he began to feel disconnected. He became frustrated with some aspects of the parish life he witnessed, almost as an onlooker. No doubt he was searching for some sort of spiritual direction but wasn't finding any. However, eventually, he found a mentor in Fr. Reg who he describes as an "unofficial chaplain to the West End". Fr. Reg advised him to join Y.A.P. (the Westminster Young Adult Programme for 18-30 year olds). He did so and went to

Lourdes with a group led by the late Cardinal Hume whom he found very warm and welcoming. Youth pilgrimages to Lourdes are often designed as opportunities to accompany and serve the sick and disabled, but this one was a retreat for the young people themselves which afforded a lot of time for fellowship and reflection. Martin describes this and an earlier trip to Czestochowa in Poland in 1991 for World Youth Day, as one of just a few "peak experiences" which nourished his faith and kept him walking with the Spirit.

He also got involved with the "Bright Lights Festival" for young people in Westminster diocese, and started to lead retreats for young people for SPEC (Speculum Vitae – The Mirror of Life) at the Westminster All Saints Pastoral Centre in London Colney. Here, he would write dramatic pieces to illustrate some aspect of the challenges faced by young Christians in the present age.

One of these was a play called "The Thirteenth Apostle" featuring a character named Bert found in a Tavern, where he meets and questions the Apostles about Jesus. Another was "Babies" which he wrote in 1998 at the age of 24. This deals with a young unmarried couple who are thinking of aborting the child they have conceived together. Gradually, he built up a network of contacts and people of like minds in the diocese and beyond.

TV roles but the bright lights did not dazzle him

Throughout this time, Martin continued to work as an actor with parts in Casualty, The Bill and other TV roles. He also played "Bottom" in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the National which later toured to New York. Yet somehow, the bright lights did not dazzle him as they might have with others. He started to become uncomfortable with the acting scene. He preferred writing and found that he no longer watched plays as a member of the audience or even as an actor but as a writer. As a writer, he could control the content of the play and use the medium of theatre or film to make the points he wanted to make. In 2005, Martin's nan died. She was in many ways the bedrock of his Faith and that of his whole family. Brought up as an orphan by nuns she was a woman of simple but profound devotion to the love of God. Martin, his sister Clare and their mother Anna had been living together with her in London and were her carers in her final years. Her death was therefore a significant loss and led into a time of reflection, a time to take stock and look at what the future held.

Priesthood or the theatre?

Martin had been thinking about forming a Christian theatre group (the idea that led to TenTen) since 2004. But he also felt that he might have a vocation to the priesthood. He explored this possibility at Allen Hall in Chelsea on a vocations weekend and decided it was not for him. Nevertheless, he also decided that he was prepared to let everything go and be open to the call of the Holy Spirit. That call came soon afterwards when he took the play "Babies" on a limited tour of some secondary schools. It was so successful that he was invited to take it on to a number of other schools and ended up doing a lengthy 10 week tour. This was effectively the launch of TenTen. Today the enterprise is widely known and acclaimed and has received the enthusiastic endorsement of Archbishop Vincent Nichols among many others. Martin's sister Clare started as TenTen Business Manager working one day a week to start with but now works for the Company full time; their Mother Anna does too as an administrator. Lizzie Hastings is the Development Manager while actors and other professionals are hired as required to put on the many plays and programmes in the busy annual schedule.

Apart from continuing work for schools, parishes and young offender institutions, a recent TenTen presentation of some significance this Easter was the "Runcorn Passion" staged in the centre of Runcorn with the participation of some 250 local parishioners. Then, the next major TenTen project is the presentation of a full length play at the Leicester Square Theatre in the West End. It's called "Kolbe's Gift" by David Gooderson and tells the true story of a Franciscan priest who gave his life in a Nazi death cell in Auschwitz by taking the place of a Polish soldier, Frank Gajowniczec, and thereby saving his life.

TenTen are funded largely from the fees they charge for their work but the inevitable shortfall is made up from donations to a charitable trust (to donate go to www.tententheatre.co.uk/donate). They are also forging partnerships with other Christian organisations including CTS and have hopes of being able to do many new projects in the future, for example in film-making. There's so much more to say that can't be fitted in here, so do check out the website www.tententheatre.co.uk and if you are a school teacher, a catechist, a parish priest or anyone else interested in finding out how TenTen can help and support your work, please **get in touch at** office@tententheatre.co.uk or ring 0845 388 3162.



The Runcorn Passion



Secondary School play (top) and Primary School play (bottom)





Name the Kingdom

Fr Chris Thomas reflects that evangelisation is helping people to recognise the presence of God that is already in their lives.

Every now and again a particular saint captures my imagination. Why I have no idea but I usually find when it happens that the saint in question has much to teach me. At the moment St Bonaventure is occupying a lot of my thought. He was born at Bagnoregio in Italy, not too far from Rome. He became a Franciscan in 1243 and studied at the University of Paris. He became Cardinal Bishop of Albano but remained at heart a simple Franciscan who loved life and who was able to see the presence of God everywhere. He wrote that he saw the "traces" or "footprints" of God in all things. He said that the whole world was the "incarnation" of the mystery of God, and the very "Body of God." The "journey of the mind to God," as Bonaventure put it, was to learn how to see the unity of all being, how to listen for the partially hidden God, and how to honour the footprints that were everywhere once you could see.

I am becoming more and more aware that the Gospel implies an alternative way of living that becomes a dance of love with God where we live with eyes and hearts that are open and in which we see the presence of God everywhere. We are invited to live with a sense of wonder and gratitude at the gift of this world and of life itself. It means that we know judging, blaming and separating are enemies of the Kingdom and that justice, love, mercy and compassion are at the core of our being and the antidote that brings life.

Moved beyond old understandings

But that seeing with new eyes means that we have to learn to let go. There's a sense in which we have to let go of what we thought Faith was about and allow God to teach us what Faith is really about. The Scribes and the Pharisees were constantly being challenged to let go of their image of God and see again. The disciples were also moved beyond their old understanding to begin to see something different. When I was at college one of our lecturers said that all who follow Jesus are called to be Kingdom spotters. He used to say 'Look for goodness, search for kindness, name love and compassion and know the truth that where those realities are, God is present.' I've reflected on that over the years and realised that it's true. The very fibre of creation is pulsating with the presence of God. God is everywhere. It's just that we don't always see.

I think that reflection on the presence of God in all things leads to a very different view of evangelisation. If God is everywhere

then maybe our spreading of the Good news is to help people see that God is already present in their lives, that the footprints of Christ are everywhere. Indeed we could even say our lives are holy not because of anything we do but because God is present in the mundane and the ordinary and even in the messy and the uncomfortable.

If you read the accounts in the synoptic Gospels of the crucifixion of Jesus you will find the very dramatic image of the tearing of the temple veil from top to bottom. I have read that the word for temple is "fanum". Everything in the temple was seen to be holy and everything outside the temple was considered to be "pro fanum" or not holy. Apparently it's where our word "profane" comes from.

The gate of heaven is everywhere

The tearing of the temple veil from top to bottom is a way of helping us to see more clearly that the separation between the holy and the unholy is over. Everything is now potentially the holy, the temple. There is nothing that is not spiritual. There is nothing that God is not present in whether it be good or bad. That's the core meaning of the Incarnation. Richard Rohr says that 'matter and Spirit are forever shown to be united in Jesus. He is himself the temple, and we are the temple, and all creation is the temple.' As Thomas Merton said quoting Catherine of Sienna, "the gate of heaven is everywhere".

We don't understand that we still want to divide and separate when Christianity is screaming at us that the holy is to be found under our noses in the very stuff of our lives. We still live trying to protect ourselves from the profane when in fact everything is touched by God.

So maybe it's not that far removed from the truth to say that we are called to be Kingdom spotters and in the naming of the Kingdom we are inviting people to open themselves to the God who is with us in the middle of our lives. If that's not evangelisation then I don't know what is.



Fr. Chris Thomas heads up the Irenaeus Project. He is a member of the Emmaus Family of Prayer.

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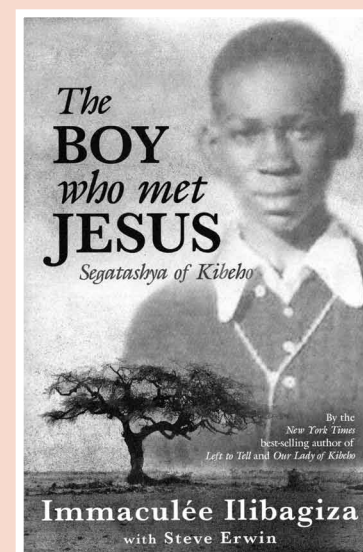
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CCR Centre



TIM STEVENS BRINGS US UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CCR CENTRE

On the 10th July 2013 from 12 noon to 3pm we had our first evangelistic outreach from the CCR office. Gabriele had been inspired by seeing the "Open Days" over the road at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital and thought it would be a good idea if the CCR Office did something similar. As the CCR office is in the basement, we needed the approval of Fr Pat Ryall the parish priest of St Mary's to use their covered collonade which leads from the church onto the street. Here there are tables and chairs and a coffee bar, which was an ideal spot to invite passers by to come into for a cup of coffee and a chat.

As well as the office team we were joined by Kate, Teresa and Eileen (members of the healing team of the Westminster Cathedral Hall prayer group), some of the CCR Centre volunteers (Maureen, Elizabeth, Neil) and 15 year old Anna Gibbs, who had been doing a work experience with us. Roberto Callus brought some jembee drums so people could come and learn to drum, which proved a great attraction. We also had tables with some of our resources and back copies of Goodnews which we gave away free.

We took it in turns to stand outside handing out tickets which could be redeemed for a free tea or coffee and were pleasantly surprised by the good take up we had and the number of people who came in for a chat. These included members of the parish, lapsed Catholics, Moslems, Hindus and those of no particular faith. We were also joined by Paul and Jason, from the Undertakers next door to the church, who appeared in their formal attire. Quite a few of those who came were patients from the hospital who were also pleased to receive prayer, as were the Hindus and Moslems and there was a great sense of openness and love with all that we met. It was obvious that many were looking for fellowship and community something often lacking in a secular big city like London. The day was a great success and we will be praying about how to take it forward.



CCR CENTRE and GOODNEWS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In June (12th-15th) 2013 we had a stall at Spirit in the City, the annual Catholic event organized by the four central London churches in Leicester Square. Here we promoted Goodnews magazine and the work of the CCR Centre. We were helped on our stall by Marlon and Sonia Tissera and Niru Fernando (a volunteer at the CCR Centre) from the Community of the Risen Lord. There were all kinds of stalls advertising the work of the different charities like CAFOD and LIFE, as well as music by Catholic bands all day and talks and opportunities for confession or simply sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the prayer tent. John Ghazal and his "Prayer Chair" ministries were also there, and many people came to sit and receive prayer for healing too. The day was slightly dampened by a huge downpour of rain, which damaged a lot of our material as the stalls were totally in the open air. The general buzz of the day was very good, however, and those on the stall had some good conversations with visitors.

NEW DAWN SCOTLAND



For the first time since the Reformation a rosary procession with the statue of Our Lady of Aberdeen was allowed to go through the main street of St Andrew's in Scotland. The occasion was the 4th New Dawn Scotland conference, which took place 8th-12th July 2013 at the local Madras College. In previous years the procession has avoided the town and gone by the coast road, but this year the local council gave permission for it to begin at the Roman Catholic Church of St James and to process to the ruined St Andrew's Cathedral. Three hundred pilgrims participated and another hundred or so tourists and people from the town joined for the open air Mass in the Cathedral grounds. This was celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Toal from Argyll and the Isles, two visiting Australian bishops and 10 priests. New Dawn Scotland, like New Dawn Slovakia and New Dawn Uganda was inspired by New Dawn Walsingham. It seeks to bring together all the riches of the Catholic Church in the grounds of an ancient Holy site. Among this year's speakers were Aneel Aranha, Derek Williams, Canon Willie Fraser, Fr Bill Keogh, Fr Peter Pruskiewicz, Marie Beirne and Michelle Moran. Numbers of adult delegates didn't increase as hoped but youth numbers doubled. Chief organizer Dougie Hunter believes this was in no small way due to the hard work of Nicky Lynas, a former member of the Craig Lodge community,

NEW DAWN YOUTH DAY



Nicky Lynas with the Galloway Youth Office and a team of helpers ran a special New Dawn Youth Day at St Margaret's Cathedral in Ayr on 8th June 2013. Young people from Galloway, St Andrew and Edinburgh, Paisley, Glasgow and Motherwell Diocese attended this New Dawn day. The day was a great success and Nicky and her team hope to run more days in other dioceses. Dougie believes that one of the roles of New Dawn Scotland is to encourage such youth events and leadership, and the conference helped with sponsorship of the youth event. The day began with praise and worship and morning prayer of the Church, followed by talks from Patrick Reynolds, a full time Catholic youth officer from Ireland. There were different activities for the different ages groups and in the afternoon the 11-15 year olds learnt about the virtues of Our Lady and created some art work with this. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for confession followed. Then there was a question and answer session with Patrick Reynolds and Fr Stephen McGrattan. At the end of the day the young people all attended the Cathedral vigil Mass. One parishioner commented, "Seeing all the young people at Mass was very uplifting." At the end

of the Mass Fr Stephen prayed the prayer of consecration to Our Lady and presented each young person with a miraculous medal and a gift bag containing among other things, a copy of YOUCAT which were donated by Aid to the Church in Need.

NEW DAWN SLOVAKIA



The 2nd New Dawn Slovakia took place at Skalka, the oldest pilgrimage site in Slovakia 29th June-3rd July 2013. Last year the group, who felt inspired to organise a New Dawn in Slovakia,

had a trial run with just their own contacts, but this year they opened it up more widely. Twice as many people came as had been expected – 350 over the five days including families and children who camped in the open air. Although Skalka is visited by hundreds of pilgrims there has been no tabernacle for several years, and so the organisers felt led to have one made for the conference and the moment when it was installed was a moment of great emotion. Fr Pat Collins CM from Ireland was the main speaker and another moving moment of the conference came when he broke down and shared the suffering he had experienced at seeing an old synagogue in nearby Trencin, which nobody had prayed in for years. He talked of the Jews and their great suffering and suggested that people might like to visit the synagogue the following day and pray for those that had died and for those that had caused them such suffering. Daphne Kilner, from England, who has a special link with Slovakia, was also a speaker and spoke on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Vicar General of the diocese celebrated Mass and answered questions and encouraged those present to praise God in a charismatic way.

CELEBRATE WEEKENDS

The summer season has seen a whole spate of Celebrate weekends, some, like East Anglia (13th-14th April) in Bury St Edmunds or Cleethorpes (27th-28th April) and Twickenham (28th-29th June 2013) were being run for the first time. While others like Brighton (13th-14th July) and Wales (4th-5th May) had been run before. The weekends are a sign of the great fruit of the annual Celebrate Catholic Family conference which takes place at Ilfracombe every year, as the weekends are all run by participants who have attended the main conference and felt prompted to do something similar locally to share what they have received with others. In the process people's leadership gifts and abilities have been given a chance to be expressed and flower. The weekends have also led the Celebrate leadership team to develop Release, a youth leadership training course, to form young leaders to help with the running of the weekends.

Celebrate weekends in the pipeline this autumn:
Southampton (28th-29th Sept), Torquay (19th-20th Oct),
Bristol (26th-27th Oct) and St Albans (2nd-3rd Nov).
 For more details see www.celebrateconference.org

CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING IN DUBLIN FOR THE BLESSINGS OF CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

As an act of thanksgiving and celebration of all that the Lord has done through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Ireland there will be a special gathering on **Sunday, 29th September 2013** at the Pro Cathedral on Marlborough Street in Dublin starting at 2.30pm and finishing with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin at 6.30pm. The organising committee, who include Fr Michael Hurley and three past chairmen and women of the Irish NSC and the current chairwoman, Sr Bridget Dunne, have sent out a call, inviting all those who were actively involved in the CCR at the beginning, inviting them and others to come a spend an afternoon of thanksgiving and celebration.

There will be praise and worship, and testimonies from those whose lives have been changed through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. One lady who was healed of leukemia will also share her story, and some of the pioneers of the CCR like Cardinal Suenens, Fr Jack McArdle and Fr Martin Tierney, who have died, will be remembered. Then there will be witnesses of some of the fruits of CCR, including vocations and ministries that have sprung up and a power point presentation of people and events over the last 40 years. **For details contact 00 3531 874 5441 (Pro Cathedral) or email ggallagher @ abhouse.org**

PRO LIFE CHARITIES LOOKING AT WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER

Representatives from the various pro-life groups in London have been meeting together to look at ways in which they can support each other with their resources rather than competing for clients and funding, which can always be a danger in the charity sector. Those meeting included LIFE, Good Counsel Network, 40 Days for Life and Alliance of Pro Life Students.

LIFE are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to speak in parishes about LIFE's work, for which training would be given and travel expenses paid. For further information contact Laura Callaghan tel 020 7240 1275 or email lauracallaghan@lifecharity.org.uk www.lifecharity.org.uk

40 DAYS FOR LIFE, as mentioned last month, are organising a prayer campaign in various cities this autumn starting 25th September 2013. Last autumn they organized a high profile prayer vigil outside the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in Bedford Square Central London, a big abortion clinic. In June this year the clinic made the surprise announcement it was no longer going to be carrying out abortions at the facility. Robert Colquhoun commented, "This is extraordinary - the prayer seems to yield tremendous results!" **For further information on this autumn's campaign contact Robert Colquhoun 07947 698195 or email him on Robert @ 40daysforlife.com**

IS GOD A DELUSION?

Famous Catholic apologist and scientist, Fr Robert J Spitzer SJ comes to Ireland for special event

Is Christianity compatible with evolution theory? Can evolution theory and the latest developments in physics stand on their own without the need of a creator, as Stephen Hawking argues? Is God a "delusion" as Richard Dawkins believes? These are the questions that Fr Robert Spitzer SJ, a brilliant academic, deals with through the Magis Center of Reason and Faith (www.magisreasonfaith.org) and in his book "New Proofs for the existence of God" (William B Eerdmens Publishing Company 2010).



Fr Robert, who is coming to Dublin on the 12th-13th October 2013 for a special lecture weekend at Astra Hall, University College Dublin, will address the question of so called "dark energy" and God. It's all very mysterious stuff, just as God is. We learn from scientists that over 90% of the universe is invisible or "dark", either as matter or as energy. But what exactly is "dark energy". The short answer is "God knows!" - and - as yet, scientists don't. It is the "stuff" that must exist logically to account for the increasing rate of expansion of the universe, but we know nothing more about it than that (except that it is invisible). Take a look at the You Tube video "The Curious Metaphysics of Dr Stephen Hawking" which runs for just over 7 minutes if you would like a short taster. Or try www.vimeo.com/15383112 (26 minutes) for a more in depth debate, live on the Larry King show.

Apart from his interest in Faith and Reason (the Magis Center) Fr Robert is also the founder of no less than six other institutes. One of these is the Spitzer Center for Ethical Leadership. Fr Robert has been engaged as a consultant and speaker by more than 300 business and religious organisations around the world. He has published five books and written countless scholarly articles as well as appearing in dozens of video/dvd series. The weekend should be a most interesting and faith building exposition of human reason, and the need for humility before the power of God, as well as equipping Catholics to be able to dialogue with the scientific community. **See advertisement on the back page for more details.**

PARISH CELL SYSTEM OF EVANGELISATION NATIONAL SEMINAR - 4th-6th October, 2013

Hosted by Longford Cell Group St Mel's Centre, Longford
and St Oliver's Killoe, Cullyfad, Co Longford
Guest speaker :Mr John Waters
Further info: Mary/Martina: 0868067814
Email: parishcells@evangelisation @ gmail.com



At first glance it could have been any London club night. A sense of anticipation filled the air as excited young people in their party best queued up and big security guys in black, checked tickets. Meanwhile inside, attractive women in elegant frocks greeted and registered people or took their coats. Downstairs in the basement guests drank cocktails and danced to the pulsating music and flashing lights, or sat in an impromptu restaurant chatting at small tables.

A woman then emerged from the noise and gave her hand to the burly security guard at the door. "Could you stamp my hand please? I want to go to adoration," she explained as she walked across the yard to the church for some space and quiet prayer. Catholic Fusion, which had its launch on 15th June 2013 is something of a unique event aiming to create a fusion of the social and the spiritual. Part social, part fund raiser and part evangelistic event, its aim is to create a space where young Catholics can gather to socialise and network in an exciting cutting edge club environment, without the social and moral hazards of some secular London venues.

"If the Church holds back from the culture, the Gospel itself falls silent. Therefore, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communications and information revolution now taking place"
(JP II, 2002)



Catholic Fusion is the brainchild of Marco Storz. The sense of purpose and professionalism of the event was striking. Marco has spent his own money to get the idea off the ground and ensure the look of the event. This included buying black shirts for all the bar staff and door men and galvanising others to contribute their talents too. Among those who volunteered their help for free were Alex Cooper, a professional chef who runs his own basement galley and underground supper club (www.basementgallery.com) and Felicity Skelton, an interior designer, who used her gifts to transform the rather shabby parish premises into a wonderland with fairy lights and a large roll of black cloth.

Part of the vision of Catholic Fusion is to encourage and build up volunteers in their specific skills too so they can use these gifts elsewhere in the Church. Marco says, "We have a trainee accountant who has set up Catholic Fusion Ltd and is doing all the book keeping; she is being mentored by a fully qualified accountant (all free of charge)". Altogether about 40 people contributed their time and gifts for the event.

The evening also has a prayer element, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all evening in the adjoining church and the discreet presence of a Catholic priest available for counseling and confession. Marco comments, "We believe that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will help bring about miracles in people's lives and provide the graces necessary to make each night truly special for everyone who comes. We also believe it can help lonely people to feel loved, included and accepted as well as helping them to resist excess drinking and sexual temptation."

There was also a Catholic information zone. For this first night there were just two stalls – the Good Counsel Network (which helps pregnant women at risk of having an abortion which was one of the main beneficiaries of the fund raising aspect of the night) and Goodnews magazine.

Marco commented, "The evangelisation zone where the stalls were with the Catholic charities worked really well.

The Good Counsel Network stall had interested visitors all night long. This confirmed that the most controversial area of Catholic Fusion – ie having an evangelisation area in a club environment can actually work if it is well presented and integrated with everything else." The prayer side also went well and Marco commented, "At one point I counted almost 10 people in Adoration, both volunteers and guests. It is wonderful to see Jesus being there with us as the back bone of Catholic Fusion – all praise to him for making this event a success." Marco says his inspiration was Pope John Paul II's 2002 speech to Catholics to find new ways of making the gospel accessible to the new generations.

Catholics to find new ways of making the gospel accessible to the new generations.

"If the Church holds back from the culture, the Gospel itself falls silent. Therefore, we must be fearless in crossing the cultural threshold of the communications and information revolution now taking place. Like the new frontiers of other times, this one too is full of interplay of danger and promise, and not without the sense of adventure which marked other great periods of change." (JP II, 2002)

Marco estimates about 250 guests attended the evening which he hopes will become a regular event. The feedback from the Augustinians who run the parish has been good, and although Fr Stefan Parks, who supported them initially has now moved, it seems the new parish priest is happy for the event to continue. **The next Catholic Fusion is planned for the end of September. For further information see their web site www.catholicfusion.org**

CONGRATULATIONS 25 YEARS TOGETHER



The Queen of Peace charismatic prayer group, based at St Augustine's in High Wycombe Bucks, celebrated 25 years since its establishment with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Monday 3rd June 2013. This was celebrated by Fr Willie Strain, parish priest of St Augustine's who had first given the go ahead for the setting up of the prayer group all those years ago. The prayer group has been meeting faithfully on Monday evenings since 1988. The group grew out of a series of Life in the Spirit seminars, and whilst the size of the group has waxed and waned over the years, the leadership still comprises some of the original members. They were joined by members of other prayer groups and the parish.

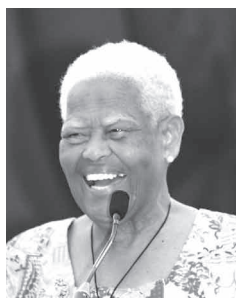
DIVINE TV CELEBRATES ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY



The Divine Television Channel is a Catholic gospel channel owned by the Vincentian Congregation in India, who runs the famous retreat centre (popularly known as Potta) at the Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor, Kerala, India. The TV channel, which has been transmitting to Europe since 2008, this summer celebrated its 5th Anniversary with a special prayer day on 3rd August, led by a Potta team (Fr Augustine Vallooran, Fr Mathew Naikkomparambil and Fr George Panackal) who led a charismatic residential retreat in UK at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick (31st July-2nd August 2013). The TV channel can also be accessed via the net www.divinetv.in Although a lot of the presentations are in local Indian languages, there are also talks and bible studies in English, particularly those given by Fr Augustine Vallooran.

BABSIE BLEASDELL RIP

Ursula BleasdeLL better known as "Auntie Babsie" died peacefully in her sleep on 22nd July 2013, aged 92, in her home in Trinidad. A pioneer of the CCR in the Caribbean with an international profile, she was a speaker, writer, organiser and founder of the World of Life Prayer Community. For many years she was a regular speaker at the New Dawn conference, accompanied by her spiritual son Fr Michael Moses (who died in 2008), where she inspired people with her stories and her faith filled teaching. Mgr Harcourt Blackett, VG of the diocese of Bridgetown in Barbados commented, "She shaped the life of the Church in the region and influenced many. Times may have changed but when the true history of the Church is told, she will feature prominently."



JEFF CAVINS POPULAR CATHOLIC BIBLE TEACHER FROM USA AT NEW DAWN, WALSINGHAM



Afficionados of the Bible Timeline, the Catholic Bible course, were delighted to learn that Jeff Cavins who devised the teaching series, was to be one of the main speakers at the annual New Dawn conference in Walsingham 5th-10th August 2013 and many attended the conference for the first time to hear him. This was the first time Jeff had spoken at the conference. He plans to return to the UK (11th-16th Nov 2013; see page 20) to do a series of evenings round the country to encourage Catholics to deepen their knowledge of the bible. *The tour is being arranged by Robert Colquhoun. Further details 07947 698195 or email Robert @ 40daysforlife.com* Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ, who runs the Catholic Bible School in India, also spoke at New Dawn, Walsingham for the first time in many years.

DISCOVERING FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS



Lalith Pereira, the founder of the Community of the Risen Lord from Sri Lanka, will be coming to the UK this autumn to run his life changing "4 Step Retreat" at St Peter the Apostle Church, Woolwich, South London over the weekend of 28th-29th September 2013. He will be speaking at various other parishes in the London area during his visit (27th September to Sunday 6th October). Venues include Chingford, Wembley, Sudbury, Fulham and Hounslow. Fr Pat Ryall has agreed to an evening at **Our Lady of Dolours Church, Fulham, where our CCR office and Goodnews are based, on 1st October & 9pm.** The theme will be "Discovering Faith to Move Mountains in Your Life".

In past issues of Goodnews we have featured Lalith's personal testimony and how he discovered the importance of total surrender to the Lord which is the key to an empowered and faith filled Christian life. We can see the fruits of his excellent teaching and insight in the lives of Sonia Tissera and Niru Fernando, two members of his community in London, who have been a great support to the CCR centre with their enthusiasm, faith and total dedication to the Lord. **Contact Sonia 08810 505 044 or Niru 07877 366 597. Email crluk@3jbs.com or www.crlmain.org/uk**

STOP PRESS!!!

REMEMBER TO BUY TICKETS FOR
MOVEMENTS CELEBRATION IN
NOVEMBER. SEE ACROSS FOR DETAILS

Follow up to 1998 PENTCOST Gathering with the Pope at St Peter's, Rome

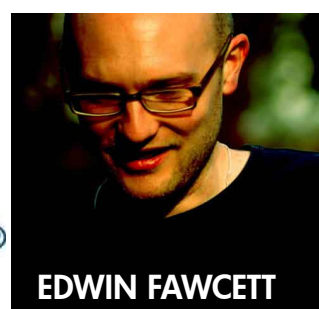


MANY STREAMS ONE RIVER

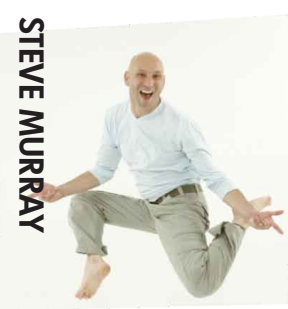
A DAY WITH THE NEW ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2013 - 10.30am to 5pm - Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, SW1H 9NH

DAY OF WITNESS, PRAYER, MIME, MUSIC AND DRAMA, TALKS, TESTIMONIES, FILM



EDWIN FAWCETT



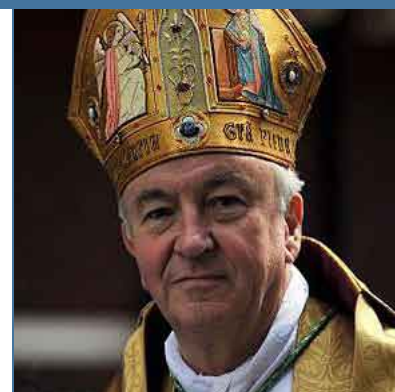
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Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Focolare and members of 20 ecclesial movements and communities including Alpha International, Ascent, Chemin Neuf, Faith CAFÉ, Jesus Youth, l'Arche, Maranatha, Mothers Prayers, Neo Catechumenal Way, Schoenstatt, St Egidio, Sword of the Spirit, Sion Community, Youth2000, Teams Of Our Lady.

Tickets £12 each. PLEASE SEND SAE to:

CCR Centre, The Crypt, Our Lady of Dolours Church, 264 Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL
(cheques payable to CREW Trust)

Further details www.manystreamsoneriver.org

JOIN US!



INVITATION



Science, 'Dark Energy' and God
What's really going on in the Cosmos?

Fr. Robert Spitzer S.J. Ph.D.

“The Evidence from Contemporary Physics for God”.

When: Sat + Sun 12 + 13 October '13

**Where: Astra Hall, UCD Student Centre,
Belfield, Dublin 4**

Time: 9 am – 6 pm [Both Days]

Cost per Day: Students € 5 Others € 10

Mass will be celebrated both days

(Archbishop Charles Brown, Nuncio, will be chief celebrant at Mass on Saturday 12 October).

<u>Contacts:</u>	Fr Leon S.J. [Chaplain]	086 - 396 3685
	Gareth Carroll	087 - 742 9025
	Teresa Kehoe	087 - 777 8813
	Joseph O'Callaghan	087 - 237 7577

Fr Spitzer, a Physicist , has been a consultant to many Companies including the Boards of Boeing and Toyota. His publications include *'The Spirit of Leadership: Optimizing Creativity and Change in Organizations'*. He is a Jesuit Priest and is currently the President of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith, USA. He has made multiple media appearances including: Larry King Live (debating Stephen Hawking on modern physics and God) and the Today Show (debating on the topic of active euthanasia).