

# **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS AUSTRALIA**

## ***“THE CALL TO EVANGELISATION”***

### **Formation Program for 2009**

#### **Reflections on:**

***Evangelisation***

***World Youth Day 2008***

***The Year of St. Paul***

#### **Evangelisation**

Evangelisation is the mission of the Church to tell the world the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The Gospel must be heard in Oceania by all people, believers and non-believers, natives and immigrants, rich and poor, young and old. Indeed all these people have a right to hear the Gospel, which means that Christians have a solemn duty to share it with them. A new evangelisation is needed today so that everyone may hear, understand and believe in God's mercy destined for all people in Jesus Christ.

# 18 “*ECCLESIA IN OCEANIA*” John Paul II November 2001

#### **World Youth Day**

In 2008, the international World Youth Day was held in Sydney. As we know, this was a resounding success and now calls all Australian Catholics to reflect on the event and how we can respond.

#### **The Year of St. Paul**

To inspire a renewed dedication to proclaiming the Gospel, Pope Benedict announced a special Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul from June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009, on the occasion of the bi-millennium of Paul's birth, which historians have placed between the years 7 and 10 AD.

#### **NOTE:**

It would be valuable for participants to read “*Evangelii Nuntiandi*” as a companion text to the Formation Program during the year as it is the great vision of Catholic evangelisation. The document can be found on the internet at the Vatican website: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_exh\\_19751208\\_evangelii-nuntiandi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html)

# KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS AUSTRALIA

## FORMATION PROGRAMME 2009

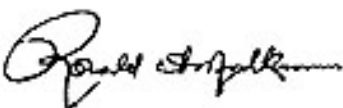
### FOREWORD

A highlight of 2008 was the celebration of World Youth Day in Australia. Those who were able to attend the functions in Sydney were most impressed by them and by the faith and attitudes of the young people from many parts of our world. Those who could not get to Sydney still had opportunities to experience something of the occasion through the “Days in the Diocese” when Dioceses throughout Australia played host to overseas visitors before or after the actual World Youth Day. These events surely serve as a backdrop to what we try to do in the future.

The Triennial Conference of the KSC, to be held in Sydney in May of 2009, is to focus on the theme: KSC as a tool of Evangelisation. What is the vocation of the Order? What is the Order called to do now – for youth and for people of all ages in our community? It is therefore appropriate that the Formation Programme for 2009 concentrate on the theme of evangelisation. Pope Benedict XVI has also called on the universal Church to celebrate the Year of St. Paul, in whose life evangelisation loomed large as a challenge to be taken up. We can therefore consider the evangelisation that we do as being done by disciples in the steps of St. Paul.

I am again indebted to Sr. Anne McMillan RSM, Director of the Pastoral Ministry Office of the Ballarat Diocese for her willingness to bring these themes together and thus help us learn to be contributors to the evangelisation of our culture.

I pray that the 2009 Formation Programme will help revive our spirit and enable us to “receive the power to be a light unto the world.”

+ 

+ Ronald A Mulkeams  
*National Chaplain.*

# **FORMAT OF PRAYER SESSIONS**

*(20 MINS)*

## **1. OPENING PRAYERS**

- ❖ Opening Prayers from the Order Prayers for Meetings of the Order.

## **2. PRAYER FOCUS**

- ❖ Each session has a particular focus and is supported by texts for reflection. These can be read in silence or by different members of the group, followed by a brief time of silent reflection.

## **3. THE WORD**

- ❖ The Word of God is proclaimed. This is read by the discussion leader or member/s nominated by him.

## **4. REFLECTION**

- ❖ Silent reflection on the Word of God and other texts. (5 mins.)

## **5. THE SHARING**

- ❖ Members share their reflection on the Word and responses to discussion points. (10 mins.)

## **6. CLOSING PRAYERS**

- ❖ Closing Prayer as in the Order Prayers for Meetings of the Order.

## SESSIONS

### 1 **“Time for a New Evangelisation”**

*“I sense that the moment has come to commit all the Church’s energies to a new evangelisation”*

(Pope John Paul II – Redemptoris Missio 3)

### 2 **“What is Evangelisation?”**

*Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize...*

(Evangelii Nuntiandi 14)

### 3 **“Jesus Christ – the First Evangeliser”**

*Jesus Himself, the Good News of God, was the very first and the greatest evangelizer ...*

(Evangelii Nuntiandi 7)

### 4 **“Paul –Apostle Evangelist - 1”**

*To inspire a renewed dedication to proclaiming the Gospel, Pope Benedict announced a special Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul from June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009, on the occasion of the bi-millennium of Paul’s birth. The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all.*

### 5 **“Paul – Apostle Evangelist - 2”**

*“Paul knew he was called to be an apostle ... solely by a divine call and election and the success of his apostolate depended above all on his personal involvement in proclaiming the Gospel...”*

(Benedict XVI)

### 6 **“Evangelisation and the Youth of the Church”**

*World Youth Day is much more than an event. It is a time of deep spiritual renewal, the fruits of which benefit the whole of society.*

(Pope Benedict XVI)

### 7 **“The Ways of Evangelisation”**

*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: “Now I am making the whole of creation new.”* (Evangelii Nuntiandi 18)

### 8 **“Evangelisation into the Future”**

*“Go therefore, make disciples of all nations.”* (Matthew 28:19)

## SESSION NO 1

THEME: ***“TIME FOR A NEW EVANGELISATION”***

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *“I sense that the moment has come to commit all the Church’s energies to a new evangelisation”*  
(Pope John Paul II – Redemptoris Missio 3)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

*At the heart of Catholicism is a call and duty to share our faith in Jesus through word and action. But what exactly does that mean?*

**Evangelisation** *n.* from the Greek good news/message, evangelisation is to live, celebrate and share the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good News that God loves us.

The Second Vatican Council didn’t need to say much about evangelisation: it was entirely about it!

“The Second Vatican Council sought to renew the Church's life and activity in the light of the needs of the contemporary world. The Council emphasized the Church's "missionary nature", basing it in a dynamic way on the Trinitarian mission itself. The missionary thrust therefore belongs to the very nature of the Christian life, and is also the inspiration behind ecumenism: "that they may all be one...so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21).'  
*Redemptoris Missio 2*

The “Great Leap Forward” was *Evangelii Nuntiandi* by Pope Paul VI (1975), with its rich and complex vision of Catholic evangelisation:

“Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise.” (no. 14)

“The Church evangelises when she seeks to convert, solely through the divine power of the message she proclaims, both the personal and collective consciences of people, the activities in which they engage, and the lives and concrete milieux which are theirs.” (no. 18)

“In the long run, is there any other way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one’s personal experience of faith?” (no. 46)

Pope John Paul II has spoken and written extensively on evangelisation. The main documents are *Redemptoris Missio*, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, and *Ecclesia in Oceania*:

Evangelisation “is the primary service which the Church can render to every individual and to all humanity in the modern world which has experienced marvellous achievements but which seems to have lost its sense of ultimate realities and of existence itself... God is opening before the Church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel. I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelisation...”  
*(Redemptoris Missio 2-3)*

***The church has always evangelised, but a new approach is required.***

‘When they heard this they...said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptised...” So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.’ *(Acts 2:37-41)*

“The Church always evangelises and has never interrupted the path of evangelisation. She celebrates the eucharistic mystery every day, administers the sacraments, proclaims the word of life -- the Word of God, and commits herself to the causes of justice and charity. And this evangelisation bears fruit....However, we can see a progressive process of de-Christianisation and a loss of the essential human values, which is worrisome. A large part of today's humanity does not find the Gospel in the permanent evangelisation of the Church: That is to say, the convincing response to the question: How to live?” (Cardinal Ratzinger, *To Catechists, Jubilee Year, Rome*).

***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***


## **WORD OF GOD**

### **The Gospel according to Mark 16: 14-16, 19, 20**


*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

Later he appeared to the eleven as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

** For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.**

## **THE SHARING**

** Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:  
(10 mins)**

- ❖ What are three important elements of evangelisation?
- ❖ Where in your daily life have you seen examples of evangelisation in practice?
- ❖ Where is evangelisation needed in your part of the world?

## **CONCLUSION**

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 2

### THEME: "WHAT IS 'NEW' EVANGELISATION?"

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** 'Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize...' (Evangelii Nuntiandi 14)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"Look to the future with commitment to a New Evangelization, one that is new in its ardour, new in its methods, and new in its means of expression." (Pope John Paul II to Bishops of Latin America, Haiti, 1983)

#### New in its ardour:

- "I came to cast fire upon earth; and would that it were already kindled!" (Lk.12:49).
- Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel." (1 Cor 9:16).
- "I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones..." (Jer.20:9).
- "We must rekindle in ourselves the impetus of the beginnings and allow ourselves to be filled with the ardour of the apostolic preaching which followed Pentecost... This passion will not fail to stir in the Church a new sense of mission, which cannot be left to a group of 'specialists' but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God. Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him. A new apostolic outreach is needed, which will be lived as the everyday commitment of Christian communities and groups."

(Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 40)

#### New in its methods, and new in its means of expression....

<b>Evangelisation is not:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• About cramming the Bible down people's throat.</li><li>• About always using words.</li><li>• About forcing people to be baptised.</li><li>• About never mentioning the name of Jesus.</li><li>• Ever detached from a life of prayer.</li><li>• Solely about social work.</li><li>• About sharing our own interpretation of what the Good News is.</li></ul>	<b>Evangelisation is:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My duty and joy to do as a baptised Catholic.</li><li>• Something Jesus commissioned all his followers to do.</li><li>• About love and service.</li><li>• Demands courage on the part of the evangeliser.</li><li>• Is never done alone. The Holy Spirit is always there to help you. Even Jesus sent his disciples out two by two.</li></ul>
---	---

### Evangelisation by definition

#### Evangelisation by definition:

- **Is diverse and complex.** For some it means they are called to preach, others it translates into feeding the homeless. Meanwhile for others it's about having the courage to wear a crucifix in a hostile environment. The "E" word has many faces but whatever the method, it concerns "the proclaiming of Christ to those who do not know Him". (Evangelium Nuntiandi, para. 17)

- **Results in renewal.** Sharing of the Good News can lead to Baptism. Baptism gives an individual a new identity in Christ. In turn, these transformed baptised individuals play a part in transforming the world around them, so that the Good News has a renewing influence on every aspect of modern life.
- **Makes waves.** Evangelisation means we are called to make waves. The Gospel message can at times upset the status quo and those with who we live and work.
- **Affects culture.** The Gospel values need to be proclaimed within and through culture. Culture is the means through which people can encounter Christ. With that in mind entire cultures need to be re-generated in Christ.
- **Involves witness of life.** Evangelisation takes flesh in the witness of daily life. This form of evangelisation affects every baptised person.
- **Involves explicit proclamation and demands a response.** Evangelisation involves explicit proclamation of Jesus Christ and draws the person into a life response.
- **Creates new evangelisers.** Someone truly evangelised in turn evangelises others. This is the authentic test of conversion.

*Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God*

## WORD OF GOD

### **The Gospel according to Luke 4: 16-20, 42, 43**


*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:


"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them.

But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose."

* For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.*

## THE SHARING

* Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:  
(10 mins)*

- ❖ What new understanding do you now have regarding evangelisation?
- ❖ What is the most important point from this reflection for you?

## CONCLUSION

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 3

THEME: ***“JESUS CHRIST – THE FIRST EVANGELISER”***

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *“Jesus Himself, the Good News of God, was the very first and the greatest evangelizer”*  
(*Evangelii Nuntiandi 7*)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

For the origins of Catholic evangelisation we look to the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus spent much of his public ministry walking from town to town preaching the Good News. In Luke's Gospel, chapter four, he says simply, "That is what I was sent to do." (*Luke 4:44*)

For Jesus, evangelisation involved:

1. **A proclamation of the kingdom of God.** He proclaims the coming of God's kingdom up in The Beatitudes. (Matthew, chapter 5)
2. **A proclamation of liberating salvation.** Jesus was a man with a message of liberation. Through him we can be freed from all that oppresses us.
3. **The offering of something for everyone.** The kingdom is open to everyone but requires effort on our part; not least an interior conversion of heart.
4. **Tireless Preaching.** He tirelessly proclaimed his message.
5. **Using signs.** Miracles were common place in the evangelistic activity of Jesus.
6. **Communities.** Those who accept the Good News gather together and reach others through their witnessing.
7. **Being true to one's vocation.** Jesus existed and the Church exists to evangelise. That's where our true identity is found.
8. **The Church.** The Church can not be separated from evangelisation. Through it, Jesus' mission continues. The Church preserves the Gospel message and the truth of it and sends out evangelisers throughout all the earth.

**From** “Evangelii Nuntiandi” Pope Paul VI

The witness that the Lord gives of Himself and that Saint Luke gathered together in his Gospel - "I must proclaim the Good News of the kingdom of God"- without doubt has enormous consequences, for it sums up the whole mission of Jesus: "That is what I was sent to do." These words take on their full significance if one links them with the previous verses, in which Christ has just applied to Himself the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor."

Going from town to town, preaching to the poorest - and frequently the most receptive - the joyful news of the fulfillment of the promises and of the Covenant offered by God is the mission for which Jesus declares that He is sent by the Father. And all the aspects of His mystery - the Incarnation itself, His miracles, His teaching, the gathering together of the disciples, the sending out of the Twelve, the cross and the resurrection, the permanence of His presence in the midst of His own - were components of His evangelizing activity. *EN#6*

Christ accomplished this proclamation of the kingdom of God through the untiring preaching of a word which, it will be said, has no equal elsewhere: "Here is a teaching that is new, and with authority behind it." "And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. There has never been anybody who has spoken like him." His words reveal the secret of God, His plan and His promise, and thereby change the heart of man and his destiny. *EN#11*

But Christ also carries out this proclamation by innumerable signs, which amaze the crowds and at the same time draw them to Him in order to see Him, listen to Him and allow themselves to be transformed by Him: the sick are cured, water is changed into wine, bread is multiplied, the dead come back to life. And among all these signs there is the one to which He attaches great importance: the humble and the poor are evangelized, become His disciples and gather together "in His name" in the great community of those who believe in Him. *EN #12*

***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***

## **WORD OF GOD**

### **The Gospel according to Mark 1: 32-45**


*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.


In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

 ***For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

## **THE SHARING**

 *Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:*  
(10 mins)

❖ What does Jesus teach us about evangelising?

## **CONCLUSION**

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 4

### THEME: "PAUL – APOSTLE EVANGELIST - 1"

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *To inspire a renewed dedication to proclaiming the Gospel, Pope Benedict announced a special Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul from June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009, on the occasion of the bi-millennium of Paul's birth. The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all.*

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"I would like to recall the beginning of evangelisation in the life of St. Paul. The success of his mission was not the fruit of great rhetorical art or pastoral prudence; the fruitfulness was tied to the suffering, to the communion in the passion with Christ (*1 Cor. 2:1-5, etc*)... A mother cannot give life to a child without suffering. Each birth requires suffering, is suffering, and becoming a Christian is a birth. Let us say this once again in the words of the Lord: The Kingdom of heaven has suffered violence (*Mt. 11:12*), but the violence of God is suffering, it is the cross. We cannot give life to others without giving up our own lives."

*(Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger speaking at a Conference during the Jubilee of Catechists, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2000)*

### Pope Benedict XVI – General Audience, St. Peter's Square, October 25, 2006

- (After his conversion) all that had constituted for Paul a value paradoxically became, according to his words, a loss and refuse (*cf. Phil 3: 7-10*). And from that moment all his energy was placed at the exclusive service of Jesus Christ and his Gospel. His existence would become that of an Apostle who wants to "become all things to all men" (*1 Cor 9: 22*) without reserve. From here we draw a very important lesson: what counts is to place Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives, so that our identity is marked essentially by the encounter, by communion with Christ and with his Word. In his light every other value is recovered and purified from possible dross.
- Another fundamental lesson offered by Paul is the universal breadth that characterizes his apostolate. Without exception, he dedicates himself to make this Gospel - literally, "good news" - known, to announce the grace destined to reconcile men with God, self and others. From the first moment he understood that this is a reality that did not concern only the Jews or a certain group of men, but one that had a universal value and concerned everyone, because God is the God of everyone.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Give no offence to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions just as I handed them on to you." *1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 11:1-2*

- From his Letters, we know that Paul was far from being a good speaker; on the contrary, he shared with Moses and Jeremiah a lack of oratory skill. "His bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account" (*II Cor 10: 10*), his adversaries said of him. The extraordinary apostolic results that he was able to achieve cannot, therefore, be attributed to brilliant rhetoric or refined apologetic and missionary strategies. The success of his apostolate

depended above all on his personal involvement in proclaiming the Gospel with total dedication to Christ; a dedication that feared neither risk, difficulty nor persecution.

- "Neither death, nor life", he wrote to the Romans, "nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8: 38-39).
- From this we can draw a particularly important lesson for every Christian. The Church's action is credible and effective only to the extent to which those who belong to her are prepared to pay in person for their fidelity to Christ in every circumstance. When this readiness is lacking, the crucial argument of truth on which the Church herself depends is also absent.


***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***

## **WORD OF GOD**


### **The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 1:11-12**

*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

*** For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

## **THE SHARING (10 mins)**

** Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:**

- ❖ What are the main characteristics of Paul's apostolate?
- ❖ What lesson can we take away from our reflection on Paul for the month ahead?

## **CONCLUSION**

**Leader: As we conclude this time of reflection, let us pray in the spirit of Paul:**

**All: Lord God of all the ages, the One who is, who was, and who is to come,  
stir up within us a longing for your kingdom,  
steady our hearts in time of trial,  
and grant us patient endurance until the sun of justice dawns.  
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and  
reigns with you in the unity of and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.  
Amen**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 5

### THEME: ***“PAUL – APOSTLE EVANGELIST - 2”***

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *To inspire a renewed dedication to proclaiming the Gospel, Pope Benedict announced a “Paul knew he was called to be an apostle ... solely by a divine call and election and the success of his apostolate depended above all on his personal involvement in proclaiming the Gospel...”* (Benedict XVI)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Let us look at what Paul said about the Holy Spirit and about his presence in us, because here too, the Apostle has something very important to teach us. In his Letters, Paul analysed the presence (of the Spirit) in the lives of Christians, which marks their identity ...the influence of the Spirit on the action of Christians and on their being. Indeed, it is he who said that the Spirit of God dwells in us (cf. *Rom 8: 9; 1 Cor 3: 16*) and that *“God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts”* (*Gal 4: 6*).

In Paul's opinion, therefore, the Spirit stirs us to the very depths of our being. Here are some of his words on this subject which have an important meaning: *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death... you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”, it is the Spirit himself”* (*Rom 8: 2, 15*) who speaks in us because, as children, we can call God *“Father”*.

Pope Benedict XVI – General Audience, St. Peter's Square, November 15, 2006

### The Relevance of Paul's Life in our own day:

#### ***1. Evangelization is necessary to Christians.***

The Holy Father said the Church needs modern Christians who will imitate Paul's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. We need to look at our immediate sphere of influence: our family, parish and community. But we should always work to broaden that sphere of influence as much as possible to spread the Kingdom of Christ, just as Paul did.

#### ***2. Disagreements are human nature, but charity is eternal.***

Opening the year on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Pope pointed out that Peter and Paul were very different figures with different roles in the Church. There was tension between them, the Pope said, but together they helped build the Church and showed the world “a new way of being brothers.” Paul also had a famously sharp disagreement with St. Barnabas, so acrimonious that they split. When the Church seems polarized, we can take comfort that there have always been big disagreements in the Church — and even greater charity.

#### ***3. Our Church is built on the sacrifice of the apostles.***

It was only a few decades ago that Peter's tomb was found to be buried deep beneath the centre altar of St. Peter's Basilica. Now Vatican experts have discovered a roughly cut marble sarcophagus deep beneath St. Paul Outside the Walls, which, said Pope Benedict: “according to the common opinion of the experts and unopposed tradition holds the remains of the apostle Paul.”

#### **4. Be ready for martyrdom.**

These are difficult, even dangerous times, with new legal challenges are making it criminal to be a believing Catholic. Don't worry, said the Pope. The Church's actions are credible and effective only to the extent that Christians are willing to "pay personally for their faith in Christ, in every situation," said Pope Benedict. Where this commitment is lacking, the appeal of the Gospel will be weaker, he said.

**Paul "lived and worked for Christ; he suffered and died for him. How current is his example today!"**


*Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God*

### **WORD OF GOD**


#### **The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-9**

*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

 ***For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

### **THE SHARING (10 mins)**

-  *Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:*
- ❖ What "immediate sphere of influence" do you feel called to work in – personally and or as a Knight of the Southern Cross and what will this cost?

### **CONCLUSION**

**Leader:** Let us conclude with the Prayer for the Year of St. Paul

**All:** Glorious Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles,  
when the Lord called, you answered,  
and you spread the good news of the Gospel  
to the very ends of the earth.  
Pray for us, that we may serve Christ as you did:  
proclaiming the name of Jesus in good times and bad,  
when convenient and when inconvenient.  
Pray for us, that we may welcome all the people we meet  
with compassionate hearts and open minds.  
Pray for us, that Christ may live in us as he lived in you.  
We pray in the name of the One who is your Lord and ours,  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 6

**THEME: "EVANGELISATION & THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH"**

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *World Youth Day is much more than an event. It is a time of deep spiritual renewal, the fruits of which benefit the whole of society.* (Pope Benedict XVI)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

There is no doubt that the Church is changing. The young people of today are presented with a different reality than the older generation. The exciting thing is that young people are faith filled and very spiritual. Young people do not believe because they are scared but they believe because they recognize that living like Jesus and having faith is life giving. There is no doubt that people were moved by WYD08. People were unsure what to expect, but as the week unfolded the joy of the pilgrims, their energy and enthusiasm became infectious. The challenge is for Youth Ministry in Australia to build on what has been started through WYD08. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference hosted a National Youth Leaders Gathering in late November, the Australian Youth Council has also been established to advise the Bishops on youth issues and a National Vision for Youth Ministry is in the process of being written. There are many extraordinary young people employed in youth ministry throughout Australia and countless volunteers giving of their time to support young people on their faith journey. The future is very bright indeed.

*Stacey Atkins - WYD Coordinator, Diocese of Ballarat.*

### Future Hopes from the National Youth Gathering - Sydney November 2008

#### FORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Catechesis** - to be vibrant; use multi-media, be age specific and developmentally appropriate; include Scripture, prayer and liturgy, Church teaching and Tradition, the Sacraments, Social Teaching, etc; and include mentoring in leadership
- **Strategic plan** for faith formation for schools, and universities; focus on teachers, students and parents; including employment of school youth ministers and teacher formation; Youth Ministry Units in RE Programs
- **Consolidated database** of human and material resources to support sharing formation materials, and collaboration and cooperation including maximising use of resources
- **Empowerment** of young people in leadership and ministry

#### SUPPORT FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

- **National Training Framework** to support the National Vision for Youth Ministry
- **National Website, Clearing House and Network** for on-line sharing of
- resources, materials and directories
- **National Conditions of Employment** for Youth Ministry Workers
- **New Conversation** on the nature of parishes and schools and their interrelationship
- **Structured opportunities** for networking and sharing on ministries and charisms
- **Catholic Identity** - support and promotion, including living Christian witness in schools
- **Youth Ministry Traineeships** for ex-students (eg gap years)
- **Resource Collaboration** for economies of scale in shared use of resources

#### NATIONAL EVENT

- **Suggestions** include incorporating WYD elements, a travelling road show, re-envisaging existing events, alternative models such as Days in the Diocese
- **National Day for Youth** - simultaneous local events as well as national events
- **National Youth Ministry Conference** for staff and students
- **Bi-annual Youth Leaders Gatherings** with stronger formational focus
- **Affordable and accessible**

You will have to find ways of *involving* young people in projects and activities for formation, spirituality and service, giving them responsibility for themselves and their work, and taking care to avoid isolating them and their apostolate from the rest of the ecclesial community. Young people need to be able to see the practical *relevance* of their efforts to meet the real needs of people, especially the poor and neglected. They should also be able to see that their apostolate *belongs fully* to the Church's mission."

*Pope John Paul II, Listen to the Word of Life, 1993*

***We can all be challenged by the questions posed by the Holy Father at WYD:***

.....let me now ask you a question. What will you leave to the next generation? .....Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely conceived freedom? How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?

*Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at WYD08 Mass*


***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***

## **WORD OF GOD**


### **The Acts of the Apostles 1:3-8**

*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

** *For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

## **THE SHARING (10 mins)**

** *Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:***

- ❖ How can the Knights of the Southern Cross contribute to the Church's task of ministry to the young people of the Church from this time forward?

## **CONCLUSION**

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 7

### THEME: *"THE WAYS OF EVANGELISATION"*

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."*

(Evangelii Nuntiandi 18)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

The biggest challenge we all face is deciding in what ways we can and are able to evangelise. Most of us, whether we spend most of our time at work, at home, contributing to the local community or parish or elsewhere, are happy to take on board the theory side of things, but the difficulty comes in trying to put evangelisation into practice. It can at first appear to be a daunting task. The key is, wherever you are, **resolve to make some kind of start**, no matter how small or great the gesture might be. You'll be surprised at the variety of different ways you can share your faith.

### Methods of Evangelisation

- **Witness of life.** There is no replacement for the witness of an authentic Christian life. Through our words and actions, as members of a Catholic parish, school, group and/or through our daily life, we can speak powerfully of the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Preaching.** The spoken word and modern means of communication can be used to good effect to evangelise. Many Dioceses and parishes now have their own website.
- **Liturgy of the Word.** Homilies given during our liturgies are crucial to our on-going Christian formation. They need to be simple, clear, direct, and Gospel centered.
- **Catechetics.** Instruction of children and young people is crucial if they are to live the Christian life. This means their teachers or catechists, in turn, need training and a solid formation.
- **The Mass Media.** Modern communications networks have enormous potential to reach vast numbers of people with the Gospel message. Television, radio, the internet, are the modern day pulpit.
- **Personal Contact.** Rubbing shoulders with people in our every day lives is a powerful way through which we, in simplicity, share our faith. This is the principle means through which the early church grew - neighbour to neighbour faith sharing.
- **The Sacraments.** The sacraments are a crucial way through which we touch the supernatural and draw strength from that contact. Any evangelisation must lead people to these sacred realities.
- **Popular Piety.** Expressions of faith are rich in value. They reflect our thirst for God and can help lead others to a personal encounter with God.

## Jesus himself has given us the image we need – the mustard seed:

“For the Kingdom of God as well as for evangelisation, the instrument and vehicle of the Kingdom of God, the parable of the grain of mustard seed is always valid (Mark 4:31-32). The Kingdom of God always starts anew under this sign..... New evangelisation means: never being satisfied with the fact that from the grain of mustard seed, the great tree of the Universal Church grew; never thinking that the fact that different birds may find place among its branches can suffice - rather, it means to dare, once again and with the humility of the small grain, to leave up to God the when and how it will grow (Mark 4:26-29). Large things always begin from the small seed, and the mass movements are always ephemeral.”

*(Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger speaking at a Conference during the Jubilee of Catechists, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2000)*

***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***


## WORD OF GOD

### **The Gospel according to Mark 4: 26-32**


*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

 ***For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

## THE SHARING

 *Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:*  
(10 mins)

- ❖ Which of the methods of evangelisation are at work or a part of your life?
- ❖ How can the Knights of the Southern Cross utilise and support the methods of evangelisation?

## CONCLUSION

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.

## SESSION NO 8

THEME: ***“EVANGELISATION INTO THE FUTURE”***

**CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER:** As for the Order Prayers

**FOCUS:** *“Go therefore, make disciples of all nations.”* (Matthew 28:19)

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

To whom are we to GO? "Who is our evangelisation activity to be aimed at?" We may well assume it is just for the benefit of non-Catholics. Perhaps we feel it does not apply to people who are members of other faith communities, likewise to those who are proclaimed atheists. However, the Gospels tell us that the message of salvation is for..... EVERYONE! As Catholics, members of the KSC and as baptised individuals it is the call of Jesus, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations" that we must increasingly seek to embrace.

#### Areas for Evangelisation

- **Universal.** Our message is a universal one. That means that no land, country or nation is exempt from being evangelised.
- **Obstacles.** In the past there have been huge obstacles and resistance to evangelisation. At times, public powers have opposed the message, others have ignored the message, some missionaries have failed to truly proclaim what the Good News is. However, lessons learnt should give us new impetus for the 'New Evangelisation'.
- **The distant.** We are called to reach out to those the furthest away from the Gospel. This is sometimes called 'Pre-Evangelisation' and demands a delicate process of meeting people where they are at. Our Catholic schools and parishes form an important means through which we can make contact with the so called "distant".
- **To a de-christianised world.** Our society is now post-Christian and we are called to proclaim again the Christian message to it. People need to hear the Good News afresh.
- **Non-Christian religions.** Catholics deeply respect members of other traditions. They have rich and valuable insights to share with us. However, as Catholics, we believe that in the person of Jesus Christ, we have a new richness to share with them, and have a duty to do so.
- **To believers.** The Church seeks to renew and deepen the faith of existing believers. It's a process of evangelising the evangelisers who face so many difficulties in a secular culture and world. See the "Resources" section for details of materials and training for existing believers.
- **Non-believers.** Catholics are called to reach out to those who do not believe in Christ and feel they do not need him.
- **The non-practicing.** This group and non-believers, at times, vehemently resist evangelisation. We constantly seek new ways to reach out to these souls.
- **To the multitudes.** The Gospel is not for a small elite group. We must strive to reach every small group, so that in turn they reach out to others.
- **Ecclesial base communities.** The Church is blessed with a number of small Christian communities. They are places where others can be evangelised if they remain in communion with their local Church and the Magisterium, are rooted in God's Word, recognise their limitations, avoid protest and hypercritical attitudes, are universal, and grow in missionary zeal.

## Remember:

- **Not alone.** You are never alone when you evangelise. Your efforts are ecclesial, that means whether you act individually or as part of a community you are in union with the whole Church. You are part of a universal community which can not be limited. There's a much bigger picture than we might at first think.
- **Adaptation.** In the task of evangelisation, each person must take care to consider ways they can share the Good News which meets the non-Churched where they are at. This doesn't mean "dumbing down", but seeking relevant ways of presenting the message. Academics call this contextualisation. Whatever our state in life, there are many diverse ways through which we can serve the evangelising mission of the Church.
- **Constant content.** Via the Pope and Bishops (the Magisterium of the Church) the deposit or content of the faith is preserved. No evangeliser or evangelising community can alter this deposit. However, each of us is free to use our own gifts in seeking new ways of sharing the Good News. This demands of us an on-going formation in the riches the Church has to offer.

"We can count on the same Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost and who impels us still today to start out anew." Pope John Paul II, para.58, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

***Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God***

## WORD OF GOD


### **The Gospel according to John 15:12-16**

*The Word of God is now read aloud slowly and prayerfully*


"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

 ***For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.  
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.***

## THE SHARING (10 mins)

 *Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme into discussion of the following:*

- ❖ How can you personally contribute to the Church's task of evangelisation in your family, parish, community?
- ❖ How can the Knights of the Southern Cross undertake the task of evangelisation in 2010?

## CONCLUSION

**Leader:** As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*The meeting proceeds*

**CLOSING PRAYERS:** As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.