

Fortieth Anniversary of the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc.

THANK YOU to all the valiant faithful who, over the past forty years, 1974-2014, have kept the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. alive and active.

Forty years ago, the **Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre** began. Our business was handing on the Faith, the faith once delivered to the saints. It still is.

The fortieth anniversary is an opportune time to say a public “thank you” to the lay apostles of this enterprise.

LINKS in the CHAIN of faith and love, BONDS of CONNECTION between PERSONS

MRS MEG BENNETT was the pioneer manager. She was ably assisted by **Mrs Bridie Groves** (now RIP), both of whom were, and continued to be, “scripture teachers” at Ryde Primary School as part of the Catechist Group of the parish of St Charles Borromeo.

CARDINAL FREEMAN (RIP) in his capacity as Archbishop of Sydney, appointed his auxiliary Bishop Edward Kelly MSC (RIP), to find premises for us. He quite approved our stance as “His Majesty’s Opposition” — as long as we did not engage in public brawling, for we were strenuously opposing the catechetical activities of his official bodies, the then Catholic Education Office [CEO] and the then Confraternity of Christian Doctrine [CCD].

So during the brief time-slot of a benevolent parish priest we acquired the use, rent free, of upstairs rooms of the disused presbytery in Parramatta Parish (before the new diocese), and began to help catechists to guard and teach the faith in the parishes and Catholic schools.

In very scruffy surroundings, Meg and Bridie did first things first — they put up curtains. I held my tongue, as my father had taught me, and they soon did a lot of other things very well and mighty quickly.

At every turn, we were blocked by officialdom, unwittingly opposing what they did not understand:

The greatest concern of the Second Vatican Council is that the Sacred Deposit of Christian Doctrine should be **guarded and taught** more efficaciously.

Blessed John XXIII, launching the Council, 11-10-1962

The gurus were not doing this, rather, the contrary!

MRS MARIE MCNULTY was the second manager. She began as Meg’s assistant, and then served the longest term as manager. She was assisted by Meg — they simply swapped roles — then by her own daughter, Carolyn, who soon became **Mrs Carolyn Giblin**, and who served the second longest.

Many were the vicissitudes they endured, yet God enriched many catechists and children, parents, priests and other teachers, through their good works.

After ten years at Parramatta, we were ordered to move out. We were rescued from annihilation by **Father Rod Bray** (RIP) P.P. of St Margaret Mary’s Parish of Merrylands. Marie and Carolyn and their assistants underwent three further moves on that property, each more stressful than the last.

They laboured in continuous uncertainty, harassed by our antagonists. They kept the good work going through four

moves: (1) from Parramatta to Merrylands, next (2) a move further down the street, then (3) back again, and (4) in the severest crisis so far, moving at no notice to another corner of the Merrylands parish property to face unrelieved opposition from diocesan officials.

Some particular triumphs of Marie and Carolyn deserves special mention. The first edition of the *Catholic Family Catechism* of 2nd February, 1981, sold out its 40,000 print-run. The second edition of 6th August, 1981, recommended to the entire English-speaking world by the Holy See, had its distribution in Australia sabotaged. Its sales slowed, and the big stock stored in the summer heat and humidity burst its binding. Marie and Carolyn rescued them, stapled them together, and saved \$20,000 worth of Catechisms, to save souls.

Years later, they were able to give 2,000 catechisms to the Archbishop of Honiaria in the Solomon Islands. However, after extensive canvassing, benefactors paid for them. Indeed, they more than paid for them, for, unlike the Loaves and Fishes with only scraps left over, we were able to give catechisms by the thousands to Calcutta and Bangalore in India, to Nairobi in Africa, to Tondo in the Philippines. A little earlier, our catechism was translated for Trobriand Island, PNG.

Marie and Carolyn were awarded the inaugural issue of the Parramatta **Diocesan Medal of Honour** for “outstanding contribution and service”. Altogether, 23 were awarded.

SISTER MAUR WOODBURY SM (now RIP) became our motor missionary and ran a city office.

Various assistants over the years included Marie’s sisters **Mrs Clare Whitelock** and **Mrs Ruth Meagher**; also **Mrs Yvonne White** (now RIP); **Mrs Clare Fleeton**, who did accounts; **Mr John Young** who did our column in *The Catholic Weekly*; **Mr Andrew Nimmo** as a book specialist; **Miss Margaret Bond** who did illustrations and a newsletter. Plus many more...

AS WELL AS the managers and their employed assistants, there have been a number temporarily employed, and many, many volunteers. To list them might be invidious, with the risk of leaving people out.

As well as the volunteers, there are the other benefactors: (1) The prayer benefactors, our ‘beadsmen’, and (2) the well-wishers, who gave encouragement when it was sorely needed and responded with gratitude to services rendered, (3) the emergency workers, who laboured long, with hand and mind, especially during the moves (which were akin to the flight-out-of-Egypt), and (4) those who donated money, from many a widow’s mite to the few who gave five figure sums, and many in-between amounts.

MR Bill Daly (RIP), cattleman, benefactor, ‘think tank’ and strategist, pioneered our work of importing books for sale. **Mr James Power** (senior) rescued us time after time from financial disaster. **Mr Paul Brazier** (RIP), self-described ‘criminal lawyer’, drafted letters of devastating force, for us and for Father Bray. Our oppressors quailed before him. His advice was always prudential and effective. He routed opponents in debate and outclassed them in writing.

THE NEWMAN CENTRE ASSOCIATION was our first support group. It was the brain-child of **Mr John McCarthy QC**, its first chairman and now Australia’s ambassador to the Holy See.

Mr Eric Vaughan succeeded him, assisted by Mr George Nelson (now RIP) and Mr Joseph English (now RIP). They were a wonderful advisory group and vital for fund-raising.

CARDINAL NEWMAN FAITH RESOURCES

FATHER JAMES TIERNEY, founder, owner and Priest-Director from 1974, handed over the whole enterprise in 2000 to an association, incorporated in civil law and ecclesiastically a private association of Christ's faithful (canons 321-326). This élite group owns and directs the renamed Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre. It is now eight laity: Mr Michael Brearley (President) and his wife Helen, Mr Damian Wheelahan (Secretary) and his wife Susan, Mr John Gordon (Treasurer) and his wife Helen, Mrs Marie McNulty, Mrs Carolyn Giblin; and four priests, Fr Tierney, Fr John O'Neill, Fr John Walter and Fr Carl Ashton.

MISS FIONA GLEESON was the third manager. In quick succession, she weathered two major cyclones: (1) moving out of Merrylands into a temporary but stressful bilocation, with an office in a friend's house in Merrylands and stock in Father John O'Neill's parish hall at Doonside, and (2), a second move into the present spacious premises at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, due to our kindly rescue and welcome by Father Brendan Murphy S.D.B., P.P.

They are the best premises we have ever had — no more scruffiness — after 40 years!

However, before this was achieved, there were several failures to find premises, with hopes shattered three or four times. Again, the wear and tear of Time & Energy is beyond the comprehension of mere bystanders who did not suffer it.

All who would lead a Godly life in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

For many years, Fiona, as well as Marie and Carolyn, were assisted by Julie Oliverio and her mother Jane Mackenzie, and, in more recent years, Fiona was assisted by her parents. We have many, many people to be grateful for!

MRSA GABRIELLE (Gai) SMITH is the fourth manager and fittingly opened this new year of grace, 2014, for our renewed catechetical endeavours.

Please support her, might and main!

May God grant her fortitude!

Over the years, our quarterly (or more frequent) publication has been named the *Newsletter, Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre*; also *Catechetical News*; then *Book News*, and now *Faith Resources*. Of these, Father Tierney writes the single sheet *Handouts* which he describe as monographs, as well as writing catechisms and "Bush Boys".

OTHER ACTIVITIES to achieve our AIMS

WE HAVE PROVIDED, promoted and published orthodox wholesome texts for families, parishes, schools, and indeed for everyone:

(1) The 1960s Bishops' texts, *My Way to God* series for Years 1,2,3,4, and *Catholic Catechism Books 1 & 2* for Years 5-6 and 7-8. Their accompanying *Teacher's Books* included lesson plans for government schools.

(2) Two American series, the *Christ our Life* series (Chicago) for Years 1-10, and the *Way, Truth, Life* series (Boston) for Years 1-10 and their *Divine Master*

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series for Years 10-12.

The 1970s Archdiocesan official catechetical bodies opposed our promotion of these modern books, claiming they were superseded by "modern methods" — those modern thalidomides which inflicted spiritual death — and they worked tirelessly to suppress their use.

(3) Then there were our own publications, the *Tracts for the Times*, a title inspired by Cardinal Newman. Some of our authors were Mr John Young, author and philosophy teacher, and Fr Peter J. Elliott, now Bishop, author and theologian.

My own publications included *A Programme for Apostles of Christ in High School*, commended and by the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome. Later on came *Teacher's Books* for Years 7 to 10. Teachers using them in Catholic schools were threatened with the sack. They were heady days...

(4) The epic saga of the *Catholic Family Catechism* is told in the 10 page monograph *Vera Doctrina — True Doctrine*, found on www.cardinalnewman.com.au and reads like a thriller. Yet that is precisely what we lived through. The merest possibility of reviving a children's catechism aroused the trendy establishment to a fever pitch of fury and aggression.

There were also the prayer books: *Lift up your Heart* by the famous prayer book writer, Father Brian Moore S.J. (now RIP); then *The Bedside Prayer Card* (laminated zig-zag page to stand upright on a dressing table), and finally *Heart Speaks to Heart*, to restore essential devotions which were grievously neglected.

(5) The Rev Dr Peter Murphy has put together a series of work books for *Sacrament of Penance* (First Confession), *Sacrament of the Eucharist* (First Communion) and *Sacrament of Confirmation* (the order of these sacraments in Canon 777 2° on the responsibility of parish priests for their preparation).

HENCEFORTH...

OUR FUTURE is greatly blessed with the vast upgrading of our premises and on-line purchasing.

Catechetics remains our speciality, "handing on the faith", true doctrine, the foundation of hope and charity:

The only purpose of our instruction is that there should be love, coming from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5

The family is the chief context of our apostolate, then parish groups and all schools. Family formation in The Faith includes family prayer and family catechetics. We also encourage homeschooling (home-tutoring, home educating), which is based on a different life-style, more intensely family centred, of which the home-tutoring is an integral part.

I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons Cardinal Newman

"Not to us, Lord, but to Thy Name the glory"
Psalm 115[113B]

I have seen so far
because I stood on the shoulders of giants.

Sir Isaac Newton †1727; cf. John of Salisbury, 1159 on the *Trivium*

Mary most holy, living catechism, pray for us.

Mother and Model of catechists, pray for us.

Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us.

Father James Tierney

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