



# St Peter Julian's Newsletter

Blessed Sacrament Congregation

November 2018

Volume 11 Issue 11

## TELLING THE LOVE STORY

A question to begin with. Who are these people and why have they been in the news:

Nunzio Sulprizio  
Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa  
Maria Katharina Kasper  
Giovanni Battisti Montini

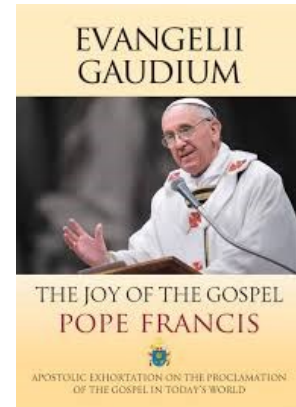
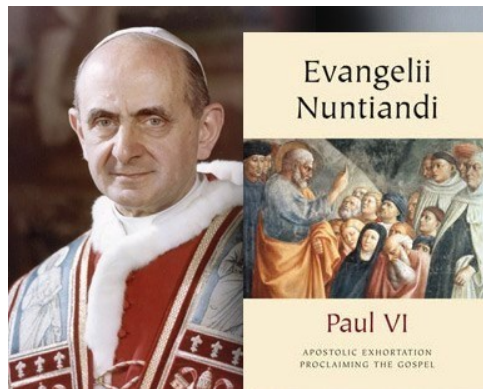
Oscar Romero  
Vincent Romano  
Francesco Spinelli?

The name of Oscar Romero may have given you the clue, or perhaps that of Giovanni Battisti Montini (better known as Pope Paul VI). These are the seven new saints canonised by Pope Francis on 14 October. The most well-known in Australia are certainly Pope Paul VI (he visited Sydney in 1970) and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Both were controversial figures. Oscar Romero was an outspoken critic of the murderous military regime in El Salvador. His prophetic preaching provoked his assassination by a hit squad in March 1980 while he celebrated Mass.

Pope Paul VI had the task of guiding the Second Vatican Council after the death of John XXIII and of overseeing its implementation. For better or for worse, he is most widely remembered for his 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. His ban on artificial contraception still remains divisive and contentious fifty years later.

But seven years after *Humanae Vitae* Paul VI published something else – an apostolic exhortation that Pope Francis has called “the greatest pastoral document that has ever been written to this day.” It’s still generally known by its Latin title, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, rather than the English, *On Evangelization in the Modern World*.<sup>i</sup> Francis quotes from it thirteen times in his own exhortation of 2013, *The Joy of the Gospel*.<sup>ii</sup>



Might this manifesto of Paul VI's, so highly praised by Pope Francis, have something to offer Australian Catholics as we prepare for the Plenary Council of 2020? Could it help answer the question that is being put to all of us: “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”

Paul VI makes one thing crystal clear. We are all in this together. Announcing the gospel is everybody's business. As he notes, that's what Vatican II said: “. . . the whole Church is missionary, and the work of evangelisation is a basic duty of the People of God.”<sup>iii</sup>

So we are all evangelisers, but Jesus is the first and greatest:

*Though it is true that this mission demands great generosity on our part, it would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. Jesus is "the first and greatest evangeliser."*<sup>iv</sup>

It's equally the work of the Holy Spirit:

*The Holy Spirit, who inspired the word, "today, just as at the beginning of the Church, acts*

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

### Sunday:

9.30, 11.00am (Chinese),  
12.30, 3.30, 5.00pm  
(Korean)

### 1st Sunday:

1.30pm (Filipino)

### 1st & 3rd Saturday:

2.15pm (Indonesian)

### Monday to Friday:

7.30am, 12.10, 5.30pm

### Saturday:

12.10pm & Vigil at 5.30pm

### Public Holidays:

12.10pm



St Peter Julian's  
641 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address:  
PO Box K334,  
Haymarket NSW 1240

Phone: (02) 9270 6900  
Fax: (02) 9270 6933

Download monthly  
newsletter at:  
www.stpeterjuliansydney.com.  
Back copies also available.

Email: haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

Websites: www.stpeterjuliansydney.com  
www.blessedsacrament.com.au

*in every evangeliser who allows himself to be possessed and led by him. The Holy Spirit places on his lips the words which he could not find by himself.”<sup>v</sup>*

And it's joyful work. Francis introduces Paul VI's warm words with a homely image:

*Consequently, an evangeliser must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelising, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelisers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ.”<sup>vi</sup>*

Many will see that here Paul is echoing the inspiring first words of the Council's great final document, *The Church in the Modern World*:

*The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor and afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts.*

For the two popes, the critical thing is for the good news to be confirmed by authentic witness:

*Today too, people prefer to listen to witnesses: they "thirst for authenticity" and "call for evangelisers to speak of a God whom they themselves know and are familiar with, as if they were seeing him.”<sup>vii</sup>*

While ordained ministers have a particular responsibility to preach the gospel, all the baptised are called to proclaim the gospel. So the advice that Francis and Paul offer to preachers applies to us too. In preparing a message that is "simple, clear, direct, well-adapted,"<sup>viii</sup> preachers (and evangelisers) have to pay as much attention to people and real-life situations as they do to the word of God:

*A preacher has to contemplate the word, but he also has to contemplate his people. In this way he learns "of the aspirations, of riches and limitations, of ways of praying, of loving, of looking at life and the world, which distinguish this or that human gathering," while paying attention "to actual people, to using their language, their signs and symbols, to answering the questions they ask.”<sup>ix</sup>*

They must:

*be able to link the message of a biblical text to a human situation, to an experience which cries out for the light of God's word. . . this is much more than simply finding something interesting to say. What we are looking for is "what the Lord has to say in this or that particular circumstance.”<sup>x</sup>*

And that is what the whole Catholic community in Australia is looking for: what God is saying to us and asking of us at this time.

If our fundamental answer is "to announce the good news," then Francis and Paul are sending us on this mission with the reminder that:

Jesus is the first and greatest evangeliser  
 the Holy Spirit inspires us to be evangelisers today  
 our message is a joyful one  
 it must be seen in how we live  
 we must pay as much attention to real people and their experience as to the word of God.

In an article published in 2013, American writer J. J. Ziegler concludes with this beautiful reflection from Curtis Martin, sometime consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation:

*The life of a Christian is a life of encounter with Jesus Christ . . . conversion, reconversion, and evangelization. It is only when I have encountered Jesus and live a transformed life that I can then invite others to encounter Christ. This is the great project of the Church. When we forget this central reality we fall into the danger of either moralism or social work. Jesus unites these two tendencies by elevating them. Our faith is a love story, where we strive to live rightly so that we can love and we strive to care for others because God first cares for us. We do not serve principles or causes; we serve a Person, who loved us first and has called us to imitate Him.<sup>xi</sup>*

How are we, the church in Australia, to tell this love story?

<sup>i</sup> [http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_exh\\_19751208\\_evangelii-nuntiandi.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html). Abbreviated EMW.

<sup>ii</sup> [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html). Abbreviated JG.

<sup>iii</sup> Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, 35; EMW 59

<sup>iv</sup> JG 12, EMW 7

<sup>v</sup> JG 151, EMW 75

<sup>vi</sup> JG 6, EMW 80

<sup>vii</sup> JG 150, EMW 76

<sup>viii</sup> JG 158, EMWN 43

<sup>ix</sup> JG 154, EMW 63

<sup>x</sup> JG 154, EMW 43.

<sup>xi</sup> <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2013/12/12/the-greatest-pastoral-document-that-has-ever-been-written/>

## PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

**30 September - 5 October 2018**

Members of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation in Australia gathered for their Provincial Chapter earlier this month. At this meeting, a new leadership team was elected to represent the Congregation for the next four years.

<b>Provincial Leader:</b>	<b>Fr Philip Watkins SSS</b>
<b>Provincial Vicar &amp; Consultor:</b>	<b>Fr Graeme Malone SSS</b>
<b>Consultor:</b>	<b>Fr Ben Ho SSS</b>
<b>Provincial Treasurer:</b>	<b>Fr Graeme Duro SSS</b>



Visitors to the Chapter from Rome were Fr Eugenio Barbosa Martins SSS, Superior General and Fr Joseph Binh SSS, Secretary General.

**(Pictured) The new Provincial Leadership Team with Fr Eugenio and Fr Joseph.**

*Left to Right:* Fr Ben Ho SSS, Fr Graeme Malone SSS, Fr Eugenio Barbosa Martins SSS, Fr Philip Watkins SSS and Fr Joseph Binh SSS. (Absent: Fr Graeme Duro)

**November envelopes for the Masses for the Deceased are now available in the foyer of the church and also at the Reception desk.**

### Plenary Council 2020

The Plenary Council 2020 is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future.

How you can be involved:

- Talk with your parish priest about becoming a parish ambassador or to know more contact 9390 5100 or [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Look out for a listening and dialogue session near you or for more details contact 9390 5100, or [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Make an individual and direct response to the national Plenary Council, via: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>
- Share your response with the Archdiocese of Sydney, via: [plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org)
- Want to know more? Watch the videos at: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/watch/>



### MONTHLY MASSES & EVENTS

#### Catholic Indonesian Community Mass.

1st & 3rd Saturdays (**3 & 17 November**) at 2.15pm  
Harry Liong 0425 918 925.

Chinese Community Mass (Cantonese) Mass every Sunday at 11.00am. Simon Liu 0411 377 618.

Korean Community Mass every Sunday at 5.00pm.  
Lucian Jin Young Noh 0451 465 857.

Filipino Community Mass. 1st Sunday (**4 November**) at 1.30pm. Juliet Byrne 0437 045 945.

Holy Trinity Community (Adoration). Eucharistic Adoration **2nd & 4th Saturdays (10 & 24 November)** at 3.00pm. Jence Oesman 0414 506 770.

Mass of Anointing every 1st Saturday (**Feb-Dec (3 November)**) at 12.10pm.

Associates of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, 2nd Saturday (**Feb-Dec**) at 12.10pm  
Mass followed by meeting. Fr Marcellus Glynn SSS (02) 9270 6900. (**Next meeting 10 November**).

Life in the Eucharist (LITE) every 4th Saturday (**24 November**) in the Hall at 1.30pm.

#### St Peter Julian's Altar Auxiliary.

The **12.10pm Thursday** Eucharist is offered for members of the St Peter Julian's Altar Auxiliary. (For information on becoming a member please speak to the Receptionist).



## LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST (LITE) MEETING

At our meeting in September, we reflected on "***Prayer in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament***".

Prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament only has validity when it is connected intimately to the celebration of the Eucharist. This point is reflected in the Church's teaching on Eucharistic Adoration when it forbids Public Exposition without due liturgical ritual and reflection on the proclaimed word of God. Traditional forms of Eucharistic adoration such as processions, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, perpetual adoration and visits to the Blessed Sacrament, are practices familiar to us.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament offers us the rich opportunity to unify all the dimensions of our human existence in entering more fully a Christ-centered consciousness; a consciousness brought about by Christ in us and not by any contribution on our part. It is a relational experience somewhat like being with someone we are close to and with whom it is possible to feel at peace with. Someone who knows our weaknesses, as well as our strengths, and loves us just the same – unconditionally. Because of this awareness during our time spent before the Blessed Sacrament, fear starts to diminish – to even vanish, giving way to a trust in the saving and healing power of Christ.

We should be careful not to see praying in front of the *Exposed Sacrament* as an opportunity to ask, ask, ask for things; nor should we regard the Exposed Sacrament somewhat as an idol. It is much more a '*sacred icon*' that engulfs us, draws us, into our future with God and plunges us ever deeper into communion within the body of Christ.

We looked at 'contemplation' as a special kind of prayer we might employ during a period of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This is non-verbal prayer.

The way to this 'contemplative' prayer is through *SILENCE*. We sit very still, but must be comfortable at the same time. We try to empty our minds of whatever distraction we might have at the time. We empty ourselves of all the distractions making room for the presence of God in the person of Christ. This kind of prayer is not about *doing*, but *being*. We ought to capture every single moment not wasting our time using verbal forms of prayers which are more appropriate at other times of worship.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so much more about Christ-consciousness than self-consciousness. We try to empty ourselves in order to make room for HIM and the more room there is, that is made for CHRIST, the more we will start to see things through Christ's eyes, that is, how He sees them. This is why we try to rid ourselves of all that distracts us, during this type of prayer - the sometimes shallowness of our lives, the hurts, the bitterness and the rejection often evident in our lives.

All ***adoration of the Eucharist stems from one source***, the celebration of the Eucharist (the Mass). In this celebration we enter into the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. We gather to hear the Word of God proclaimed in Scripture, we receive instruction in the homily, we make intercessions and we offer bread and wine to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus. We receive the Lord in Holy Communion and are sent forth to be Christ's living presence in the world.

***The LITE group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be at 1.30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November in the hall at St Peter Julian's church. All are welcome.***