

VOCATION MATTERS

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From the Director

BY FATHER MORGAN BATT

Director of Vocations & Canali House

Change always brings with it feelings of uncertainty, but so too a great sense of opportunity. This has definitely been evident in the new direction that Vocation Brisbane has taken in these first few months of 2014. I have been greatly encouraged by the vitality of the new team who I now work with, and there are exciting developments emerging across our approach to vocation promotion throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane. However, while we are constantly looking to apply new methods in our work, the three-fold vision of our team remains the same, and that is:

- To promote the four vocations or 'states of life' (priesthood, religious life, marriage and single life) with particular focus on ordained ministry.
- To be wherever young people are; and
- To build and grow a culture of vocation and involvement in the local Church.

We meet this vision through programs and events, campaigns and promotional resources. Some of our key initiatives include Leaven Hour, Our Shout, Consilium, Quo Vadis Discernment Weekends, VOCadventure, the Vocations Roadshow as well as the Archbishop's Annual Vocations Dinner. These events enable people to come together to specifically discuss vocations and find encouragement and guidance on their own discernment journey.

Our campaigns this year are based around World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the V9 Nine-Week Novena and National Vocations Awareness Week and designed to prompt communities of the Archdiocese towards prayerful support of our work.

These programs and prayer campaigns are supported through our promotional resources. Vocation Brisbane develops prayer cards, brochures, videos, books, and children resources as well as our promotional items including pens, wristbands, carabiners and footballs. Our website, www.catholicpriesthood.com, is also undergoing a major redevelopment and will be launched soon with a fresh look.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year ahead and believe it will prove to be a fruitful year for vocations for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and beyond.

We thank you for your encouragement and support of the Vocation Brisbane office. May we together continue to launch out into the deep to increase the mission in our Church.



OUR 2014 TEAM (CLOCKWISE): FR MORGAN BATT, ADAM BURNS, DONY RODRIGUEZ, CHRISTIAN NOBLEZA & VERONICA HAYES

Sisterhood Conference

BY VERONICA HAYES

Administrative Officer

With the theme scripture from Song of Songs 4:7 'You are absolutely beautiful, my darling, with no imperfection in you...' the 2014 National Sisterhood Conference was a time of retreat and reflection on God's great love for me.



Sessions were led by women leaders in the Church from all over Australia including Anna Krohn (*JPII Institute for Marriage and Family*), Sister Mary Rachel (*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia of Nashville*) and Karen Doyle (*Choicez Media*).

The vision of *Sisterhood* is to see women supported in their Catholic faith and walk with the Lord. It also recognises and encourages the valuable gift of female friendships and meaningful connection.

Annual Vocations Dinner

BY ADAM BURNS

Vocation Officer - Schools & Discernment Programs

Young men from different walks of life gathered at Archbishop Mark Coleridge's home in New Farm for the 17th Annual Vocations Dinner held at the beginning of this month. About sixty people were part of the experience which combined questions and conversations about what it means to discern God's call, particularly the priestly vocation.

These dinners offer participants a clearer idea about the various stages of discernment, but more importantly provides them with a space to connect with each other and with some of the key personnel in the Archdiocese whose ministry involves supporting young people in their vocational journeys.

Joining the Archbishop was Director of Vocation Brisbane, Fr Morgan Batt, Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary, Monsignor Tony Randazzo, Dean of St Stephen's Cathedral, Fr David Pascoe, and

associate pastor Fr Anthony Ekpo, as well as University of Queensland chaplain Fr Augustine Obi. Seminarians Adalbert Imperial and Sebastian Condon also attended the dinner and provided the young men with a bit of a glimpse of their own vocational journeys and insights into some of the questions they have thought about as they've discerned their call to priesthood.

Guests came from all parts of the Archdiocese and wider South-East Queensland with some travelling from Hervey Bay, the Gold Coast, and Toowoomba. More than half the guests had never been to one of these dinners before, but felt encouraged by different people in their life to come and learn more about responding to God's call in the life, and to see if priesthood could be an option for them. While meeting Archbishop Coleridge for the first time was a highlight for a number of the attendees, we know that he too was struck by the presence of such faith-filled young people thinking about how they are being called to respond to God in their lives. We believe that the success of these dinners are made possible only through prayer, and as a team we are encouraged by the courage we see in all those we have the privilege of journeying with.



ANNUAL ARCHBISHOP'S VOCATIONS DINNER: PARTICIPANTS WITH ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE AT HIS NEW FARM RESIDENCE, WYNBERG.

Where are we going?

It is a key priority for us to be wherever young people are gathered and to meet them where they are, though not leaving them where we find them.

Youth & Young Adult Ministries + Events

NET Ministries Australia Start of Year Training
NET Ministries Australia Commissioning Mass
Ignite Live at ACU McAuley Campus
Venire Young Adult Group, Surfers Paradise
Year 10 ACTS Camp, Rockhampton Diocese
O-Week Activities at QUT, ACU + UQ
Marist Youth Ministry Exchange Nights, Rosalie
Faith on Tap, Pineapple Hotel
Saints College, James Cook University
St Vincent de Paul Formation Day, Rockhampton
Young Men of God, Rosalie
Encounter Youth, Acacia Ridge
National Sisterhood Conference, Sydney
Catholic Meat-Up BBQ at UQ
CulturED Cafe in Melbourne
Young Adult Lenten Retreat, Launceston
Brisbane NET Team Open House, Rosalie
Vivo & Newman Society Lenten Retreat, Maroon
Movers & Shakers Christian Leadership Program
Human Virtue Series at ACU McAuley Campus
Coats for the Homeless Breakfast, Brisbane
Duchesne & St Leo's Colleges, UQ
+ *Leaven Hour, Our Shout & Consilium*

Secondary Schools

Padua College, Kedron Year 12 Retreats
Aquinas College, Ashmore Year 12 Retreats
Seton College, Mt Gravatt
Assisi College, Upper Coomera
Vinnies Schools Social Justice Day
St Anthony's College, Deeragun
Mercy College, Mackay
Ignatius Park College, Townsville
Marymount College, Burleigh Waters
St Joseph's Nudgee College

Parishes & Deaneries

Our Lady of the Way Parish, Petrie
St Patrick's Parish, Ingham
Good Shepherd Parish, Mt Isa
Redland Bayside Deanery
Holy Cross Parish, Redcliffe
Holy Spirit Parish, Bray Park
St Eugene De Mazenod Parish, Burpengary

The Next Three Months

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

SUNDAY 11 MAY - Fourth Sunday of Easter

QUO VADIS WEEKEND #1 : 16 MAY -18 MAY

CONSILIUM : 1 MAY, 5 JUNE + 3 JULY

LEAVEN HOUR : 23 MAY, 27 JUNE + 25 JULY

OUR SHOUT : 15 MAY, 19 JUNE + 17 JULY



OUR SHOUT : AT OUR PARTNER VENUE, THE PORT OFFICE HOTEL.

A New Face to Vocations

BY CHRISTIAN NOBLEZA

Vocation Officer - Youth & Young Adult Ministries

As the newest team member of Vocation Brisbane, the first few months of this year have been somewhat of a home-coming for me. Having led a number of different youth and young adult ministries in the Archdiocese over the last ten years, I now find that working as part of this team has really affirmed what I want my own life to be about, and reminded me why it is I do what I do. Put simply, I am passionate about helping young people to understand and respond to the call on their lives; to encourage them in finding their place in the Church; and to equip them to create and lead the Church in new directions that are in tune with the signs of the times.

I've done this primarily in two ways. I believe that more than ever we need to be able to communicate the person and vision of Jesus Christ in a way that is compelling, yet clear. By overhauling our online presence and visual branding as a team, as well as developing strategies to integrate new forms of technology into our work, I've been working towards making Vocation Brisbane accessible to young people no matter who they are, and where they come from. To further build on this, as a



BREAKING NEW GROUND: WITH OUR FRIENDS AT ACU BANYO

team we have also launched a new initiative to target young adults, university students, and young professionals. *Our Shout* is a free monthly lunch-time opportunity held at one of our partner venues in the CBD which offers a chance for young people to connect with each other and our team. Featuring guest speakers, church and business leaders, as well as social entrepreneurs from both corporate and non-profit backgrounds, *Our Shout* is designed to challenge and inspire young people to play their part in influencing the world around them.

Aside from this, I have been supporting Fr Morgan with parish visits to Petrie, Redcliffe, Bray Park and Burpengary; Adam in his work in schools; Dony with his work in universities, and Von with our promotional activities and campaigns. I'm excited to see where we are going as a team, and look forward to meeting many of you this year.



EXPLORING THE CALL : WITH SOME OF THE RESIDENTS OF CANALI HOUSE IN 2014 AND FR MORGAN BATT. ABSENT: TYRON STEWART.

Canali House Update

BY FRANCIS FERNANDES

2014 Canali House Resident

My year at Canali House began with sending off the COBs (Canali Old Boys) to the seminary in early February, followed by an induction into what this year is all about. Part of this involved swimming through a creek known to inhabit sharks and running five kilometres dripping wet! I've since begun a Certificate IV in Theology, Ministry and Leadership which is offered to residents in the house, and the study has already helped me to develop new insights into scripture I've read so many times growing up.

Formation has also come in other unique ways. Canali House places an emphasis on human formation and as such, Fr Morgan has spent many dinners teaching us table manners and etiquette. It all paid off when we were invited to a formal breakfast recently hosted by the Knights of Malta as well as the Archbishop's Annual Vocations Dinner. At the breakfast, we met all sorts of people

including magistrates, the Mayor of Ipswich, barristers and business leaders. At the dinner we dined with the Archbishop, as well as having the chance to meet the Dean of the Cathedral, the Rector of Holy Spirit Seminary and over fifty men considering the priesthood in different ways.

The Canali experience has also come with its set of challenges and victories including the opportunity to share my testimony and vocational journey during Leaven Hour as well as attending a Year 12 Camp with Padua College and the Movers and Shakers Christian Leadership Program. Please keep me and the rest of the Canali boys in your prayers as we continue to discern the call of priesthood in our lives.



Vocation Matters is our new seasonal newsletter providing updates about vocation promotion throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

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