



- An apostolate, a free service, not a business, no sales, no cheques
- Specialists in Family Catechetics
- Consultants in Catholic Homeschooling
- Originally Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre, 1974 - 2000
- Patron - Saint John Henry Newman 1801 - 1890
- *Cor ad cor loquitur* - "Heart Speaks to Heart"

Rockview

143 Old Trunk Road
The Rock NSW 2655
Phone / Recorder / Fax
02 6920 2000

20th August, 2024 "Clear, brief and easily assimilated by all" Handouts n. 221

A Golden Jubilee & a Diamond Jubilee

- 50th year of Father Tierney's founding the Newman Centre
- 60th year of his Sacred Ordination to the Priesthood
- soon turning 89 to begin his 90th year of life (God-willing!)

Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre
now Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc.

"The Newman Centre"
2nd July, 1974

THE NEWMAN CENTRE was set up to help catechists ("Scripture Teachers") with their weekly State Schools religion classes. It began upstairs in Parramatta's former presbytery. It's history would fill several books – see *Handouts* "True Doctrine, Vera Doctrina".

It was an alternative strongly contrasting with the recently introduced "warm fuzzy" official teaching materials/techniques. Emphasis had shifted radically...

- from the adoration of God to self-fulfilment,
- from religion to pop-psychology,
- from God to self.

Active support for Newman Centre by Cardinal Freeman, Archbishop of Sydney, strongly contrasting with opposition from his official diocesan bodies, CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) and CEO (Catholic Education Office).

Perhaps this assuaged his troubled conscience!

At Clergy Conference December 1974, he declared the Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre an approved private enterprise in the Archdiocese.

- Managers/assistants were experienced catechists and taught clients **how-to-teach** and choose text aids:

Meg Bennett, Bridie Groves, Marie McNulty, Carolyn Giblin, Fiona Gleeson, Clare Fleeton, Sister Maur Woodbury S.M., Julie MacKenzie-Oliverio, June Oliverio, Gai Smith; and assisted by Bill Daly, John McCarthy, John Young, Eric Vaughan, Joe English, George Nelson.

- It marketed Fr. Tierney's *Tracts for the Times* (see over).
- It displayed books for city shop to take orders for them.
- A few years later, it became a major bookshop itself.

CNFRI has the SAME PURPOSE as VATICAN II

"... to ensure that the Sacred Deposit of Christian Doctrine is **guarded and taught** more efficaciously."

Born 1935 – Convert 1955 – Priest 1964 – Archdiocese of Sydney, now Broken Bay – retirement apostolate in letterhead

Ordination to the Priesthood

18th July, 1964

followed by First Parish Mass

19th July, 1964

THOU hast made us for Thyself, O God,
and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee.
St Augustine

Venite, ADOREMUS Dominum

"O come, let us **adore** The Lord" (Psalm 94)

God made us (in His image – our Dignity)

to know, love & serve Him here on earth (Duty)

and to see & enjoy Him forever in heaven (Destiny)
cf. Deuteronomy 10:12; 11-13

"The art of arts is the care of souls," (St Gregory Nazianzen).

"The care of souls is mine forever," (St John Henry Newman).

Fr. Tierney's ideals in Parish Work

"Prophet, Priest, King"

Parish ministry of teaching, sanctifying, guiding.

Formation for discipleship in lay apostolate

Spiritual formation for all, especially altar boys.

Preparing prayer sheets and duplicated booklets.

Camping for boys – training in self-help groups.

Constant Vigilance for orthodox doctrine:-

Defending Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments,

Resurrection, Virginal Conception, Transubstantiation.

Leave granted to write catechetical guides

for youthful disciples and their teacher/catechists:-

A programme for Apostles of Christ in High School

with its four *Teacher's Manuals for A of C*

Catholic Family Catechism. for first edition and later.

THE purpose of our instruction is that there should be **charity** from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere **faith**.

1 Timothy 1:5

PUBLISHED WORKS

Catholic Family Catechism Apostles' Edition II (50 Q&A's); *Disciples' Edition II* (only 50 Q&A's);

Confirmation Kit for Home Preparation; *Heart Speaks to Heart* prayer book;

Apostles of Christ in High Schools, duplicated Teacher's Books;

For other publications: Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc, 02 9673 2235 and see

www.cardinalnewman.com.au for regular *Handouts* (A4 sheets)

Bush Boys and Cuthbert (2 in 1);

Bush Boys and Bush Rangers;

Bush Boys on the Move;

New Boys in the Bush;

Squiggles and Squinter;

New Boys Go Bush Again;

New Boys Bush Rescue.

A Birthday on St Bernard's Day

The Mellifluous Doctor, Last of the Fathers, Bard of Mary, Greatest of all the monks

1935-1955: THE ANGLICAN EXPERIENCE

Taught to pray *Our Father*, Apostles' Creed;
Sunday School; learning Bible texts by heart;

Introduction to the idea from a school friend of our Anglican superiority of authoritative tradition: "We have *The Book of Common Prayer* as well as the Bible;" (other Protestants only had the Bible).

1950: Preparation for "Confirmation" as an Anglican at the age of 15: looking up Bible texts on Trinity & Incarnation, Church & Sacraments, first experience of Biblical Theology.

At my State High School history class on divided Christianity and Reformation, I first heard of John Henry Newman, an Anglican priest who converted, "seceded to Rome". Further glimpses of Newman came from other young Anglicans after Sunday Eucharist at morning tea.

Hence my later fascination with Newman's words: "When I was fifteen a great change of thought took place in me. I fell under the influence of a definite Creed, and received into my intellect impressions of Dogma, which, through God's mercy, have never been effaced or obscured."

1956-1957: New convert living in a vibrant parish; completing B.Sc., Dip.Ed.; plus a richer liturgical life at University Newman Society.

1958-1960: seminary philosophy, Springwood.

1961-1964: seminary theology, Manly.

1965-1995: parish ministry till early retirement from cardiac stress fighting for orthodoxy against demythologizers/desacralizers/moral relativizers, anti-doctrinal catechetical "experts and their refusal to allow memorizing from John Paul II's list:

Words of Jesus + other Bible texts,
Apostles' Creed + Ten Commandments
Liturgical Prayers + Essential Prayers,
key doctrinal ideas etc.

Hence a dawning awareness that many Catholic bishops, priests, laity, I met were being lured by Satan into the mounting chaos of Anglican comprehensiveness – an escalating *Modernism!*

1995 - ? My retirement from parish work has been productive, thanks to Daniel & Michele Vieira and their ten children – counselling, phone, fax, letters, Newsletters, *Handouts*, books – "to fight for the faith once-for-all delivered to the saints," (Jude 1:3).

"Reward with eternal life, O Lord, all who have done good to us for Thy Name's sake."

"TRACTS FOR THE TIMES"

In 1833, Newman launched an Anglican campaign in *A Call to Action* against the British government's religious interference with *A Tract for the Times* (the first of ninety!).

In 1971, I launched a campaign for Catholic orthodoxy against Sydney's CCD apostasy to the trendy catechetics in their new materials *Growth for Year 7* and the dropping of the doctrine segment from diocesan catechist training courses.

Tract 1: *Teaching Religion?* by JT, 6th August, 1971

Tract 2: *A Program for Apostles of Christ in High School* by JT, 29-6-1972

Tract 3: *Church Music Today* by Peter Bohrsmann & Errol Lea-Scarlett, 2nd February, 1973

Tract 4: *Why We Believe, Catholicism for 5th & 6th Form* by Fr (now Bishop) Peter J. Elliott 22-2-73

Tract 5: *Lift up your Heart, A Book of Prayer* by Fr. Brian Moore S.J. 1-11-1973

Tract 6: *The True and the False Prophets* by Cardinal Newman & Fr. George Telford, 17-12-1974.

Writing, editing, publishing & distribution was all done from my front room at Ryde Presbytery, as well as planning catechist training in the Parish Hall attended by other priests and their catechists.

The solution was to find suitable accommodation with a paid staff. After more battles with powerful diocesan officials, the Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre opened 2-7-1974 and is still going as a vastly expanded enterprise at St Marys, Western Sydney, as Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. with Michael Brearley as President and Gai Smith as Manager.

TESTIMONIES

Cardinal Gilroy: "Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty Father, to these Thy servants, the dignity of the priesthood." (Ordination formula)

Cardinal Freeman: "You have always been a good priest." (Repeated by Bishop Patrick Murphy to his Vicar General)

Cardinal Clancy: "Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?" (Honourable company of St. Thomas A'Beckett)

Cardinal Pell: "As usual, you smite them hip and thigh." (for homeschooling, against Philistines in NSW Government)

Cardinal Oddi (Congregation for Clergy): "We do hope your Catechism will be widely used in all the English speaking countries."

Secretary of State: "His Holiness [John Paul II] wishes to encourage you in your catechetical ministry to the People of God."

"Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to Thy Name give the glory," Psalm 113:9 [115:1].

Father James Tierney