



# Keeping in Touch

A quarterly newsletter for Catholic homeschooling families

AMDG

Term Four 2007

JMJ

## Citizenship and Evangelization

Archbishop Charles Chaput

One of the distinguishing marks of debate both outside and within the Church over the last 40 years is how uncivil the disagreements have become. Being a faithful Catholic leader today -- whether you're a layperson or clergy -- isn't easy. It requires real skill.

I'm not really surprised by the environment in our country or in our Church because Msgr. George Kelly saw it coming 30 years ago. I read his great book, "The Battle for the American Church," as a young Capuchin priest when it first came out in 1979. I remember being struck immediately by George's very Irish combination of candor, scrappiness, clarity, intelligence and also finally charity -- because everything he wrote and said and did was always motivated by his love for the Church.

I also remember George's sense of humor, which was vivid and healthy, and which probably kept him so generous and sane. He was a man's man and a priest's priest -- and his commitment to Catholic family life, Catholic education and Catholic scholarship has remained with me as an example throughout my priesthood. George and I became friends through our mutual friend Father Ronald Lawler, O.F.M. Cap., and after I became a bishop in South Dakota, he would often call me or write me with his advice -- and I was always happy to get it, because it was always very good. So I'm grateful for a chance to acknowledge my debt to him.

I want to quickly sketch for you the picture of an anonymous culture. But everything I'm about to tell you comes from the factual record.

This society is advanced in the sciences and the arts. It has a complex economy and a strong military. It

includes many different religions, although religion tends to be a private affair or a matter of civic ceremony.

This particular society also has big problems. Among them is that fertility rates remain below replacement levels. There aren't enough children being born to replenish the current adult population and to do the work needed to keep society going. The government offers incentives to encourage people to have more babies. But nothing seems to work.

Promiscuity is common and accepted. So are bisexuality and homosexuality. So is prostitution. Birth control and abortion are legal, widely practiced, and justified by society's leading intellectuals.

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Every now and then, a lawmaker introduces a measure to promote marriage, arguing that the health and future of society depend on stable families. These measures typically go nowhere.

Ok. What society am I talking about? Our own country, of course, would broadly fit this description. But I'm not talking about us.

I've just outlined the conditions of the Mediterranean world at the time of Christ. We tend to idealize the ancients, to look back at Greece and Rome as an age of extraordinary achievements. And of course, it was. But it had another side as well.

We don't usually think of Plato and Aristotle endorsing abortion or infanticide as state policy. But they did. Hippocrates, the great medical pioneer, also famously created an abortion kit that included sharp blades for cutting up the fetus and a hook for ripping it from the womb. We rarely connect that with his Hippocratic Oath. But some years ago, archeologists discovered the remains of what appeared to be a Roman-era abortion or infanticide "clinic." It was a sewer filled with the bones of more than 100 infants.

If you haven't done so already, I'd encourage you to pick up a little book written about 10 years ago, "The Rise of Christianity" by the Baylor University scholar Rodney Stark. You'll find all of this history in its pages and more.

But what does ancient Rome have to do with my topic, the relationship of Church and state today?

Let me explain it this way: People often say we're living at a "post-Christian" moment. That's supposed to describe the fact that Western nations have abandoned or greatly downplayed their Christian heritage in recent decades. But our "post-Christian" moment actually looks a lot like the pre-Christian moment. The signs of our times in the developed nations -- morally, intellectually, spiritually and even demographically -- are uncomfortably similar to the signs in the world at the time of the Incarnation.

Drawing lessons from history is a subjective business. There's always the risk of oversimplifying.

But I do believe that the challenges we face as American Catholics today are very much like those faced by the first Christians. And it might help to have a little perspective on how they went about evangelizing their culture. They did such a good job that within 400 years Christianity was the world's dominant religion and the foundation of Western

civilization. If we can learn from that history, the more easily God will work through us to spark a new evangelization.

I'm not a historian or a sociologist, so I'll leave it to others to fully evaluate Rodney Stark's work. But Stark does address a couple of key questions: How did Christianity succeed? How was it able to accomplish so much so fast? Stark is not only a social scientist, but also a self-described agnostic. So he has no interest in talking about God's will or the workings of the Holy Spirit. He focuses only on facts he can verify.

Stark concludes that Christian success flowed from two things: first, Christian doctrine, and second, people being faithful to that doctrine. Stark writes: "An essential factor in the [Christian] religion's success was what Christians believed. ... And it was the way those doctrines took on actual flesh, the way they directed organizational actions and individual behavior, that led to the rise of Christianity."

Let's put it in less academic terms: The Church, through the Apostles and their successors, preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. People believed in the Gospel. But they weren't just agreeing to a set of ideas. Believing in the Gospel meant changing their whole way of thinking and living. It was a radical transformation. So radical they couldn't go on living like the people around them anymore.

Stark shows that one of the key areas in which Christians rejected the culture around them was marriage and the family. From the start, to be a Christian meant believing that sex and marriage were sacred. From the start, to be a Christian meant rejecting abortion, infanticide, birth control, divorce, homosexual activity and marital infidelity -- all those things widely practiced by their Roman neighbors.

Athenagoras, a Christian layman, told the Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year A.D. 176 that abortion was "murder" and that those involved would have to "give an account to God." And he told the emperor the reason why: "For we regard the very fetus in the womb as a created being, and therefore an object of God's care."

As this audience already knows, Christian reverence for the unborn child is no medieval development. It comes from the very beginnings of our faith. The early Church had no debates over politicians and communion. There wasn't any need. No persons who tolerated or promoted abortion would have dared to approach the Eucharistic table, let alone dared to call themselves true Christians.

And here's why: The early Christians understood that they were the offspring of a new worldwide family of God. They saw the culture around them as a culture of death, a society that was slowly extinguishing itself. In fact, when you read early Christian literature, practices like adultery and abortion are often described as part of "the way of death" or the "way of the [devil]."

There's an interesting line in a Second Century apologetic work written by Minucius Felix. He was a Roman lawyer and a convert. He's talking about a birth-control drug that works as an abortifacient. He describes its effects this way: "There are women who swallow drugs to stifle in their own womb the beginnings" of a person to be.

That's what the first Christians saw around them in their world. They believed the world was snuffing out its own future. It was stifling future generations before they could come to be. It was slowly killing itself.

Since we see similar signs in our own day, we need to find the courage those first Christians had in challenging their culture. We need to believe not only what they believed. We need to believe those things with the same deep fervor.

The early Christians staked their lives on the belief that God is our Father. They respected Caesar, but they didn't confuse him with God, and they put God first. They believed the Church is our mother. They believed their bishops and priests were spiritual fathers and that through the sacraments they were made children of God, or "partakers of the divine nature," as Peter said.

It's time for all of us who claim to be "Catholic" to recover our Catholic identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and missionaries of his Church. In the long run, we serve our country best by remembering that we're citizens of heaven first. We're better Americans by being more truly Catholic -- and the reason why, is that unless we live our Catholic faith authentically, with our whole heart and our whole strength, we have nothing worthwhile to bring to the public debates that will determine the course of our nation.

Pluralism in a democracy doesn't mean shutting up about inconvenient issues. It means speaking up -- respectfully, in a spirit of justice and charity, but also vigorously and without apologies. Jesus said that we will know the truth, and the truth will make us free. He didn't say anything about our being popular with worldly authority once we have that freedom. In the

end, if we want our lives to be fruitful, we need to know ourselves as God intends us to be known -- as his witnesses on earth, not just in our private behavior, but in our public actions, including our social, economic and political choices.

If pagan Rome could be won for Jesus Christ, surely we can do the same in our own world. What it takes is the zeal and courage to live what we claim to believe. All of us already have that desire in our hearts. So let's pray for each other, and encourage each other, and get down to the Lord's work.

Adapted from the address Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver delivered Oct. 26 at St. John's University School of Law in Queens, New York. The talk is titled "Church and State Today: What Belongs to Caesar, and What Doesn't."

Reproduced from Zenit.org 3 Nov 07, reprint permission sought.

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### **Blessed Miguel Pro**

Blessed Miguel Pro was martyred in Mexico in 1927 for being a Catholic priest. Ann Ball, known for her biographies of modern saints, has released a book on Blessed Miguel. For more information go to

<http://www.annball.com/books/miguel.shtml>

For a free holy card of Blessed Miguel Pro send a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Pro Vision  
St Francis Religious Goods  
4906 Hwy 6  
North Houston, TX 77084

Ann's daughter is in the US Army and her webpage <http://www.annball.com/heroes/> makes interesting reading. It includes a link to write to a soldier (presumably American) in the Iraq war [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com)

Submitted by Carmel Gale

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### **The intercession of the Holy Souls in Purgatory**

Car that was completely "dead" is now running well!  
retold by Mary Ann Matulis

Right now I am feeling total awe, immense gratitude and the overwhelming feeling of just WOW. I say the St Gertrude prayer for The Holy Souls in Purgatory many times a day.

Yesterday (Saturday) when I was ready to go to Mass, I tried to start my car and there was nothing. It just would not turn over. I tried it several times

during the day and my son tried it before he went to bed, but still it would not start.

Before going to Mass this morning, I went to your web page\*, (as I do every morning before Mass) to say the St Gertrude prayer. I decided to read some of the things on the web page, which I did the first time that I found your web site, but have not done since then. I read about you not being able to open the lock on your door and about your husband helping. I thought that "I should pray to The Holy Souls in Purgatory about my car", so before I went out, (I was intending to walk to Mass), I asked them to please pray that my car would start. I put the key in the ignition and said "please Holy Souls, pray that it starts", I turned the key and my car started!

I was what you could call struck dumb. I could not believe it, they actually heard me and answered my prayer, so I offered up my Mass and my Eucharist for them. I pray that more and more people pray to and for The Holy Souls, they need our prayers, and they DO listen to us and pray for us. Just ask my car. B.M. New York, USA.

\*The powerful intercession of the Holy Souls in Purgatory for their benefactors:

<http://missionbell.homestead.com/Afavourgrantedbytheholysouls.html>

The web page has accounts of the intercession of The Holy Souls in Purgatory, for their benefactors in cases of illness, addictions, cars that won't start, infertility problems, protection in accidents, their help for people who are experiencing major trouble with city councils, success with projects, finding lost property and trouble with relations, etc. and prayers and ideas on how to help The Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Quote from Cardinal Mindszenty

"If we have a million families with Rosaries in their hands uplifted to Mary they will be a military power not against other people but a power to ensure world peace."

Submitted by Carmel Gale

## **Benedict XVI's Pep Talk: Tribute to Martyrs, Red and White**

By Elizabeth Lev\*

ROME, NOV. 2, 2007 (Zenit.org).- Last Sunday Benedict XVI read my mind. After a week of being trapped alone among very secular intellectuals smugly parroting anti-Catholic dogma, I passed St. Peter's Square to see an image of the newly beatified Spanish martyrs proudly emblazoned on the broad stone facade of the basilica.

"The martyrs had it easy," I thought, as I stood in the back of the square, just out of reach of Bernini's colonnade.

Laden with books and papers to prepare arguments against the mindless mudslinging of hate speech toward the Church, I envied a few short hours of witness in the arena with the lions. An afternoon of being mauled and chewed seemed preferable to a lifetime of inconclusive arguments.

Faced with the modern hypocrisy of false tolerance, where all beliefs are accepted except the "arcane and rigid" morality of Catholics, I longed for the intellectual honesty of Diocletian. The Roman emperor simply hated Christians and wanted them dead.

Stressed by the difficulty of bearing witness out in the world, and struggling to understand the best way of testifying to the truth without compromise or aggressiveness, I dreamed of the straightforward choice between the pagan idols and the executioner's sword. The martyrs always knew they had done the right thing.

A roar echoing through the piazza interrupted my moment of self-pity as Benedict XVI came to his window for the Sunday Angelus. Moving a few steps forward, I could see the tiny dot of the Pope at the window. I hoped that his blessing would fire me up to return to the fray, but Benedict XVI gave me much more.

As if privy to my inner musings, the Pope started to speak of "white martyrdom," no blood and guts, but the glory of earning one's way to heaven through "daily witness."

With terms like "heroic testimony," and "bold participation," the Holy Father presented the vocation of Christians in a different light from just attending Mass and being nice to others. He reminded us that we are called to be better than we are, to greatness.

The beauty of Christianity is that one can achieve greatness without fame or far-flung adventure. The Church recognizes the valiant endurance of men and women who bear witness to the Gospel in a world growing more overtly hostile to Christians every day. Benedict XVI then observed that "this martyrdom of ordinary life is a particularly important witness in the secularized societies of our time." I thought he was speaking to me, but indeed, all of us have experienced these moments.

The Sunday Angelus had always seemed like a wonderful treat to see the Pope and get rosaries blessed; never before had I seen that short Sunday

interval like a boxer's few moments in the corner between rounds when his trainer tends his wounds and preps him for next bout.

Standing in the embrace of St. Peter's Square, and looking up at the statues of the saints while Benedict XVI, from his window, urged me to join the cloud of witnesses, my books seemed less heavy, my battles less frightening and my path less unsure.

I started out this week feeling like Rocky, ready to fight "the peaceful battle of love."

Thank you, Holy Father.

\* Elizabeth Lev teaches Christian Art and Architecture at Duquesne University's Italian campus.

Reprint permission sought.

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### Lessons from a Patient Grandfather

The source for violence, Ghandi said in the September/October issue of Fellowship newsletter, are the seven social sins or blunders of the world: "Wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principles."

Mahatma Ghandi had given these to his grandson Arun at their final farewell in October 1947. Arun later added an eighth sin or blunder: "Rights without responsibilities."

In addition to these social sins, Arun Ghandi added: "Much of violence stems from two things: an inability to deal with anger ... and an inability to build relationships".

"In neglecting to build relationships, we cut ourselves off from other people," Ghandi said. "It becomes easier to focus on our differences, on prejudices, when we do not have relationships with other people."

From The Catholic Weekly April 12, 1998

Submitted by Carmel Gale

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### September Camp 2008

Advance notice of September camp 2008 - the schoolweek camp for Catholic homeschooling families with in-service for parents. This camp will not be held in its usual spot next year but rather from October 20 - 24 i.e. the second week of term four. For all of you who will be using at least one week of your July holidays for World Youth Day, you can now catch up that week of holidays lost by having three weeks off in October before coming to camp, if you so desire!

Bookings will open on 1st May 2008.

*Housekeeping Inspiration – poetry by Mary Ann Matulis*

### The Clutter Monster

Watch out for the clutter monster,  
Who wants to ruin your life.  
He'll move in uninvited,  
And proceed to cause you strife.

He tells you to save,  
Each magazine and bill,  
If you follow his advice,  
Your house will over-fill !

He tells you to keep this,  
He tells you to keep that,  
Even to keep,  
Your grandfather's hat.

With things in boxes,  
All over the place,  
You'll soon find out,  
You have no space!

He's convinced you to keep,  
All of your junk.  
His advice to you,  
Is just plain bunk!

Throw out some paper,  
And claim your life back,  
The clutter monster,  
Will at first give you flack.

If you keep up your efforts,  
Your house will look swell.  
Clutter monster in your house.  
No longer shall dwell.

More of Mary Ann's poems are at:  
<http://www.homestead.com/missionbell/Poems.html>

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### Book Review: *Waking Rose*

subtitled *A Fairy Tale Retold*, by Regina Doman

Reviewed by Gai Smith

*Waking Rose* is the third book in a trilogy that covers a four year time span in the lives of the Brier and Denistone families. It is a romantic adventure . Though not essential it is very helpful if one has read Regina Doman's previous two books – *Shadow of the Bear* and *Black as Night*. Personally I recommend reading them as there are references from them that are more easily understood in *Waking Rose*. The storyline of the latest book is loosely framed around the fairytale of Sleeping Beauty.

The story begins in Warwick in an old farmhouse where the Brier family once lived before going to

New York. For Blanche and Rose Brier, as well as the Dennistones and the many friends who both live here and are visiting, the atmosphere is an extremely happy one and everyone is completely at home in living their faith. Later the setting goes to Mercy College, a small Catholic university where most of the lecturers and students take their faith very seriously.

Most of the action takes place either in the township of Meyerstown, close to the college, or in the surrounding countryside. Occasionally the story jumps to the University of Pittsburg where Fish (Benedict Denistone) is studying English. It is early in the twenty- first century.

The plot revolves around Rose Brier who is studying at Mercy College and is madly in love with Fish. Unfortunately Fish does not return her feelings but, since they are related by marriage and have shared many sufferings together, he tries to let her down gently and maintain a friendship. Red-headed Rose, full of life and slightly eccentric tastes, reluctantly accepts this state of affairs and gets on with life. Fish sees Rose as a young teenager whom he has to protect. His life has been harsh and full of painful secrets up until now. He is plagued by nightmares concerning what has been done to him in the past and he is frightened. He never lets anyone see or know this. Others think him strange and somewhat ugly because his face has obvious scars from many sources including street and prison fights in his younger days.

Blanche Brier and Bear, Fish's brother, are minor characters in this novel and only Bear's presence is actually necessary to the outcome of the story. Rose's university friends include Kateri Kovac who leads the rosary outside the Myerstown Hospital of a Saturday to protest about the 'reproductive services'. Others are Paul, Alex, James and Leroy who seem to delight in martial arts, sword play and wrestling. Paul Fester falls for Rose and she starts to spend some time in his company. There is Donna whose jealousy of Rose was quite malicious but who eventually redeems herself in an unexpected way. Dr Prosser, a strident feminist, is the doctor in charge of the hospital and Dr Madelyn Murray runs the Graceton Long-Term Facility where most of the patients are in long term comas. There are many other characters too numerous to list, including three nuns who seem mysterious.

The main plot begins when Rose decides to do her bioethics topic on the abuse of patients in the local hospital, a topic which her late father had tried to

pursue whilst a journalist for the local newspaper twenty years ago. Unable to find his notes Rose changes her mind but not before interviewing a number of people, innocently leaving behind information that at least one person follows up on. Through mysterious reasons, Rose becomes a patient at Graceton Long-Term Facility. She is in a long term coma following what appeared to be an accident. Thus far the tale seems to be similar to Sleeping Beauty. Her friends and family, including Fish, maintain a vigil at her bedside. Fish becomes very suspicious because of a message on his mobile phone. He and Rose's friends talk and, as a result, begin deeper investigations and inquiries. Rose seems hopelessly lost to them and yet they cannot figure out exactly what really happened to her and why her situation seems so hopeless. Dr Prosser becomes even more aggressive in her persecution of those taking a pro-life stance.

The climax is full of action and many twists and turns. The outcome is slightly surprising and the book worth reading. There are a number of sub-plots, one of which includes Donna.

The theme of the story is to show us how we must be continually vigilant in prayer and that God is in charge. The three nuns remind us of this. We truly realise when we stand up for what God wants then we suffer. The greater the fuss we make the greater the suffering. To be Catholic and actually live your faith is hard. The world outside is harsh and profoundly evil. Strident feminists, typified in the novel by Prosser, exist and those who live by their own secular humanist values can be quite cruel and vindictive.

The story is not hard to follow despite the complexity of the plot and the characters. There are some flashbacks which can be more easily understood if you have read the previous two books. The language is straightforward with very limited use of figures of speech. Almost half the story is told in direct speech. The dialogue gives us a deep insight into many of the characters. Some of the time the author speaks in the third person omniscient and we see what goes on in the minds of Fish and Rose. Descriptive passages are inserted where necessary so that we see some of the quaint characters and the scenes quite vividly.

As an adult I have a great deal of praise for the book. I found that once I had started I wanted to finish it quickly. It was easy to follow and there were

*Continued on page 14*

## TWO NEW BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

### **NEW BOYS IN THE BUSH**

by James Tierney; 492 pp, RRP \$16.50

**THIS IS A BRAND NEW** adventure story suitable for all ages from 8 upwards.

- **Heroes Jack, Jim and Joe Lawson**
- only just moved from city to bush
- **A Pioneer Week** on a 40 acre farm
- in an old rambling house,
- with a goanna in the chookyard;
- a strange but wondrous way of life;
- no electricity, but solid solar energy,
- rashly risking daily death to get it;
- felling firewood on themselves;
- didn't know the gun was loaded...
- "daring-do" in an old Land Rover;
- plus burn the house down? then stranded up a windmill.
- **An Explorer Week** with the Seven Deadly Dangers
- amid ridge and gorge in the Wild Bush Mountains;
- Lost! Despair! Hope! scrub, swamp, towering trees;
- a monster rock hurtling down like a cannon ball;
- tripping over a cliff and dangling in space;
- teaching each other swimming – else they drown;
- starting a bushfire from a campfire explosion;
- then a snake-attack; sun-parched thirst; sunstroke...
- **Short chapters** to read aloud at meals or in school;
- an ideal read curled up in your bed or a comfy chair,
- or for tedious travel by bus or train or car or plane
- A fan praised *Bush Boys* "The book feels like it is alive",
- "It made me feel I was there"; and
- "I'd love to have those boys as my friends."
- So you'll feel happily at home in their big family,
- and *learn the bush* from their bungles.
- **It's really two books in one:** 53 chapters, 492 pp;
- in a book too exciting to put down...
- **For adventurous boys and girls.**

### **BUSH BOYS and**

### **CUTHBERT JOINS THE BUSH BOYS**

by James Tierney; 516 pp, RRP \$16.50

**THE TWO BOOKS are now in a one-volume double adventure.** In *Bush Boys*, Greg and Bernie, and cousins Peter and John, have camping fun, and outwit the yahoo cheats. In *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, they rescue cousin Cuthbert from kidnappers and make him one of themselves.

- short chapters and simple style for easy reading;
- with 60 lively **illustrations**;
- and 2 pages of **maps** of the Wild Bush Mountains;
- bushwalk, cook, camp with the **Bush Boys** yourself;
- with know-how to help **plan your own camping**;
- including 14 handy pages of camping ideas & pictures;
- **For adventurous boys and girls.**

### **REVIEWS**

A reader of *Bush Boys* who read a pre-publication draft of *Cuthbert*, said, "**It's exciting! My mother says it's too exciting – but don't change anything!**"

Another said, "**Although I am a girl, I love to read books for boys. I especially like the parts about the bush and when the boys are naughty.**"

And a priest re-reading *Bush Boys* recently told the author: "**It's Timeless!**"

**THIS COMBINED VOLUME** of the first two books is suitable for all ages from 8 upwards. Its size and format match that of the third and fourth books, *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers* RRP \$13 and *Bush Boys on the Move* RRP \$16.50. Thus the five *Bush Boys* books will have four matching volumes, and the discount price for the **full set of four will be RRP \$55.00**

### **WHY DID YOU WRITE THEM?**

Father Tierney replied, "To encourage boys to be boys and how to go about it, and to encourage big families and to make homeschooling respectable."

### **From Catholic Weekly, 14/10/2007**

Young women wanting to be a Little Sister of the Poor can write to Sr Mary Lourdes at 70 Market St, Randwick NSW 2031 or email her at [lspsydnt@bigpond.com.au](mailto:lspsydnt@bigpond.com.au) or phone (02) 93989166.

Words of Pope John Paul II at beatification of Jeanne Jugan in 1982 (foundress of Little Sisters of the Poor):

"Charles Dickens, a contemporary of Jeanne Jugan said of her: "There is in this woman something so calm, and so holy, that in seeing her I know myself to be in the presence of a superior being. Her words went straight to my heart, so that my eyes, I know not how, filled with tears."

Words of Blessed Jeanne Jugan: "Never forget that the poor are Our Lord."

### **Prayer to St Joseph**

O Glorious Patriarch, St Joseph, humble and just craftsman of Nazareth, help us in our daily work so that we may find in it an effective means of glorifying Our Lord, of sanctifying ourselves, and of being useful to the society in which we live. Obtain for us from Our Lord, humility and simplicity of heart, attachment to work, a spirit of discipline and prayer, respect for others and support in time of stress. Help us to follow your example and keep our sight fixed on Mary our Mother, and never avert our eyes from Jesus until we reach eternal happiness with you in heaven. Amen.

Submitted by Carmel Gale

# What's Wrong?

**M**ATHEMATICAL BEGINNERS often claim that maths is dull and difficult and quite useless.

Unthinkingly, they pass on their detractions or calumnies, and thereby ensure a continuation of unhappiness, or even embitterment. They give up trying, and let it all slide. It's just 'too hard'.

Yet there are teaching techniques which offer remedies. For instance, some pupils can be helped by treating maths more as an experimental science.

Try cutting geometrical shapes out of cardboard or wood. Make them to scale. This makes them more 'real' than just pictures on paper. It is "hands-on". Shapes can be measured, and rearranged like a jigsaw puzzle, and their sizes compared.

## THE SQUARE AND THE RECTANGLE

The puzzle on the right shows up a limitation of the experimental approach, i.e. that it can lead to errors, which a little abstract reasoning fixes up.

A square 8 cm × 8 cm with area 64 cm<sup>2</sup> is cut up into four pieces.

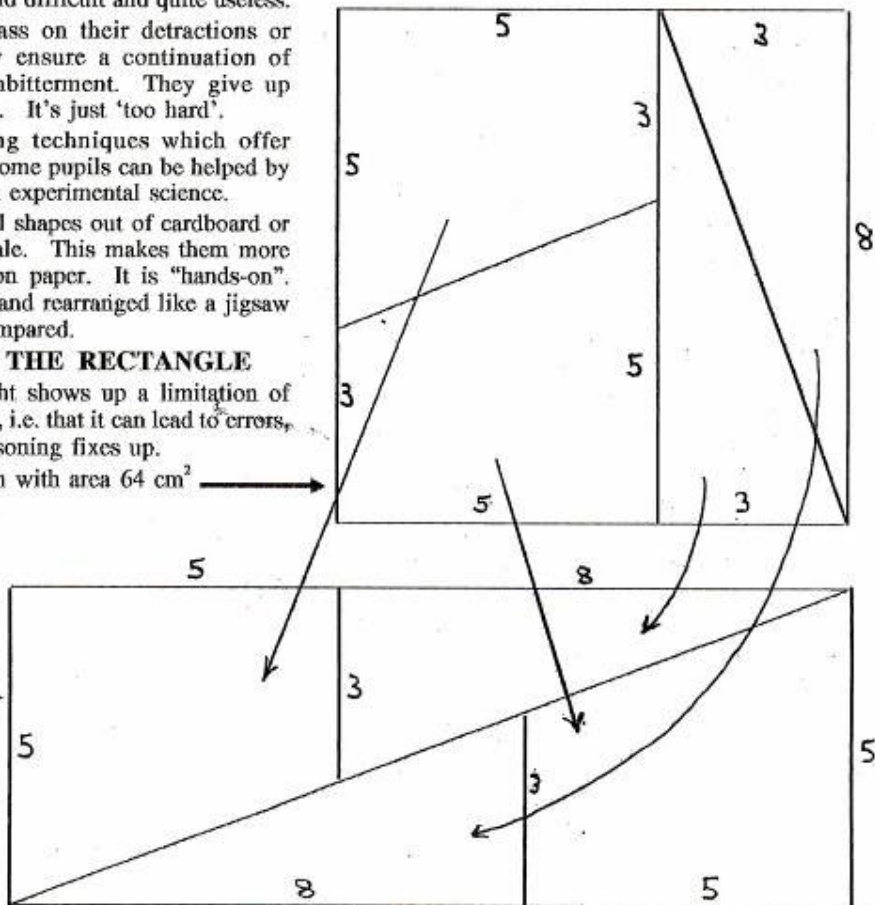
Move the two trapezia and the two triangles according to the arrows, (including the clockwise rotation of the triangles by 90°). This leaves their sizes the same.

The 8 × 8 square seems to have become a 5 cm × 13 cm rectangle, with an area of 65 cm<sup>2</sup>.

But 64 can't be 65.

What is wrong?

Where is the fallacy?



**The best solution sent to Father James Tierney, Laureleigh, 1585 Taralga Road, Tarlo NSW 2580, will receive a \$20 prize, and may receive publication.**

## 10 Rules of Life

by the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuen

1. I will live the present moment to the fullest.
2. I will discern between God and God's Work.
3. I will hold firmly to one secret prayer.
4. I will see in the Holy Eucharist my only power.
5. I will have only one wisdom: the Science of Cross.
6. I will remain faithful to my mission in the Church and for the Church as a witness of Jesus Christ.
7. I will seek the peace the world cannot give.
8. I will carry out a revolution by renewal in the Holy Spirit.
9. I will speak one language and wear one uniform: Charity.
10. I will have one very special love: The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Submitted by Carmel Gale

## Warning to parents

By Julia Kendrick

"The Golden Compass" is supposed to be a children's movie based on books by a 60 year old English atheist. Its purpose is to encourage children to abandon God. The movie which stars Nicole Kidman has eliminated the anti-Catholic sentiment which is in the books in order to encourage children to view it. However the intent of luring them away from God is still evident.

The movie is due for release in December.

# The Twiggly Book

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*By Thomas English, aged 5*

Once upon a time there was a father twiggly, a mother twiggly and three little twigglies. They lived in a hole near to a pool where they loved to fish. Water came through a pipe to the Twigglies' home and fishes came too.

The mice were nice friends of the Twigglies. The mice couldn't swim to visit the Twigglies. So there was a ladder for the mice to climb up and a slippery dip for them to slide down.

The Twigglies have a Play truck and they come out at daytime to drive it, but it can't move. They just turn a stick to keep the drum moving and then when they press a button the cement comes pouring down. They have fish for every lunch and dinner but not chips every night – just some nights.

When they go fishing under water, each Twiggly has a breathing tube which is L shaped. They also have a knife to cut the fish.

Did you know that the Twigglies never die? God made them a special creature that would never die.

Do Twigglies grow old? No, they grow a little bit until they are three years old but they are still little.

Can Twigglies fly? Yes. Twigglies can fly because when they are three years old, they grow wings.



## **ALL GUNS COMMENCE FIRING!**

by Brendan Smith

I am a Leading Cadet of the AAFC, Australian Air Force Cadets to give us our full title. My squadron is 323 Squadron, the finest and most compact unit of cadets in the state. I have been in the AAFC for almost two years. I joined at the beginning of last year and have done numerous activities within Cadets, such as drill teams, aircraft recognition teams, squadron bivouacs and above all, range shooting.

Before a cadet can do his shooting he or she must complete a Firearms Training Elective or FTE. When I joined I was slightly under the required age of twelve years and six months but Flying Officer DeCean, the commander of the squadron, made a concession for me on the advice of the Chief Instructor, Corporal Barr. I was unofficially classified as an observer. There was still a snag which was that I was not allowed to have a Blue Book which is a cadet's identification and full record of personal records, exams and activities. Without

this item I was unable to be present or partake in an FTE, though Jacinta, my sister, who signed up at the same time, was able to do so. A little while later I was given my blue book and I decided to go on the second FTE which was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 but as the date approached a family commitment stopped my attendance, much to my annoyance.

Still I enjoyed many other activities throughout the year. At the start of the 2007 we received a flood of new cadets. Aside from being happy at the fact I was no longer the youngest cadet in the squadron I knew that soon another FTE would be happening. The FTE took place and we learned how to assemble and re-assemble, clean and polish, load and unload the squadron's ten .22 inch Bolt-Action Brno Light Rifles. The first shoot was a large one. We had cadets from 303 Squadron(Camden) and 308 Squadron(Richmond) shooting with us at the Blacktown Pistol Club. We were split into five details with ten cadets in each detail and each cadet got in about three turns at shooting, each turn consisting of twenty rounds of ammunition. Although it was fun it felt rather

uneasy with the cadets of other squadrons looking at you. 323 Squadron is the best overall squadron in the AAFC. Other squadrons in our area laugh at us and call us the Tame Mountain Dog Squadron, mocking the panther on our Squadron Emblem. They had the good manners not to mention their nickname for us as they were using our rifles so we all tried the best we could to get along and we had a moderately good shoot.

The second shoot that was on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May was a much bigger success. We set up our rifles and targets without delay. Sir had got his hands on some new, more firm cardboard targets instead of the flimsy paper ones we had used previously and we hastened to set them up on the metal frames. There were only eighteen of us so we split into two details instead of the five on the previous shoot. One detail would fire while the other would load the ten round magazines with .22 Rimfire ammunition. The ammunition detail issued us with two magazines each. Sir gave the order and we picked up the rifles.

“Detail, load!” and we hurriedly slipped the first magazine into the rifle, making sure to keep the bolt to the rear.

“Detail, action!” and we slid our bolts forward and put on our safety catches.

“Detail, instant!” and we clicked off our safety catches and took aim, though making sure we kept our fingers of the trigger.

“All guns, commence firing!” and we aligned our rifles on the targets and blazed away.

When you are kangaroo or pig hunting there is skill involved but not that much skill. Anyone with an eye and a good sense of deflection shooting can hit an animal. Range shooting requires one or both of two skills. Marksmanship and consistency (putting bullets in close proximity to one another). The squadrons best ever shot was Corporal Zachary Brown. He had both the skills and used them. He and Corporal Mills were the high scorers at Wing Competitions and Interstate shoots. They were even selected to go over to Bisley in England and compete in the International Cadet Shoot, in which they both scored highly. I’m not a very good marksman so I have to rely on consistency to give me scores. To be consistent you have to fire from exactly the same firing position after each shot.

All day I worked on my consistency and I improved considerably. However one shot went fairly wide of the mark although it was a feat worthy of Davy Crockett. The target is secured to the frame

by four paper clips, I succeeded in blowing one of the paper clips to smithereens. My neighbour, Corporal Wallace had a different problem. He is the squadron’s expert at consistency and was frequently complaining that he was putting so many shots together that they were linking up. Once he even put ten shots together in the middle of the target, they all linked up. There were lots of laughs and then came the surprise.

One of the new C-17 Loadmasters was at Richmond and an invitation was extended to the cadets to go and take a look at it before it took off. We had to ring our parents to get permission and at first I panicked as I realised that my family was at Penrose Park for the Bruggeman’s baby’s baptism. Thankfully I remembered my Dad’s mobile phone number and I got permission from him. After we finished shooting we quickly picked up all the spent brass shell casings and cleaned up the area we had been firing in. A decision was made that we would clean the rifles when we got back to our own squadron compound. We drove over to RAAF Richmond and boarded the C-17, once more marvelling at how big it is.

There was an American officer aboard it who was supervising the Australian Squadron Leader who flies it. The American told us the first person to identify his rank could sit at the controls. I happen to know a good deal about American ranks and badges and I could tell from the golden leaf on his shoulder that he was a Major and I said so. He kept his promise and it made me feel both excited and bewildered, excited by sitting at the controls of one of the biggest and most complex aircraft in the world and bewildered by the hundreds of switches in front of me.

The Australian crew were showing us through the plane and showed us their small arms locker where they kept their emergency weapons in case they crashed in hostile territory or were hijacked. The Warrant Officer who was showing us over the plane said to us and these are his words.

“It would be ‘All guns commence firing’”.

It was only after we explained to him that Sir had been saying those words at the beginning of every detail that he understood why we were laughing.

## Recipes

Submitted by Carmel Gale

### BANANA-OATMEAL MUFFINS

1 cup rolled oats  
1 cup milk  
2 cups plain flour  
½ cup sugar  
5 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp salt  
½ tsp cinnamon  
¼ tsp nutmeg  
½ cup margarine melted and cooled / oil  
2 eggs  
2 tsp vanilla  
2 cups mashed bananas (4-5 medium)

Combine oats and milk and set aside. In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, soda, cinnamon and nutmeg. To soaked mixture, add melted margarine or oil, eggs, vanilla and mashed bananas.

Add wet mixture to dry ingredients and stir only until the flour is moistened. Fill muffin tins and bake in a moderate oven for 20 mins.

Yields 14-18 large muffins.

### CHICKEN BALLS

500g minced chicken  
1 tbspn chopped parsley  
1 clove minced garlic (opt)  
1 egg  
1 cup rice bubbles (crushed)  
Sea salt (optional)  
Oil for frying

Form chicken, garlic and parsley into balls, dip in egg and coat in crushed bubbles with salt. Shallow fry in oil.

### PAW PAW JAM

1½ kg (3lb) paw paw, firm and ripe  
3 cups sugar  
½ cup lemon or orange juice  
Dash salt  
Wash paw paws, cut in halves and scoop out seeds. Scrape flesh into a bowl and mash thoroughly. Measure out 3 cups of flesh and place in a small preserving pan. Add the sugar and lemon juice. Simmer gently, stirring constantly so that jam will not catch for about 1 hour or until it sets when tested. Bottle into hot containers and seal right away.

## RICE BUBBLE RECIPES

### SULTANA CHEWS

3 cups Kellogg's Rice Bubbles  
1 cup peanut butter  
½ cup honey  
¼ cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla essence  
½ cup sultanas

Step 1. Combine peanut butter, honey and brown sugar in a large saucepan. Cook, stirring over a low heat until melted and thoroughly combine.

Step 2. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla essence, sultanas and Rice Bubbles until completely coated with peanut butter mixture.

Step 3. Press firmly into a greased 20 or 23 cm square pan. Chill until firm and cut into squares. Makes about 25 squares.

### ANOTHER RICE BUBBLE SLICE

Over low heat melt 90 g butter and 3 Mars bars (60 g). When melted, remove from heat and stir in 3 cups Rice Bubbles. Press into pan. Chill then cut into squares.

\* \* \*

### Homeschooling Conference DVDs

The DVDs from the National Homeschooling Conference held earlier this year are now available.

For \$40 you receive 4 DVDs holding video recordings of 6 keynote talks from international guest speakers, plus a question and answers session with a panel of students, parents and the guest speakers. The last DVD also holds electronic copies of the conference papers including papers from the many workshops offered.

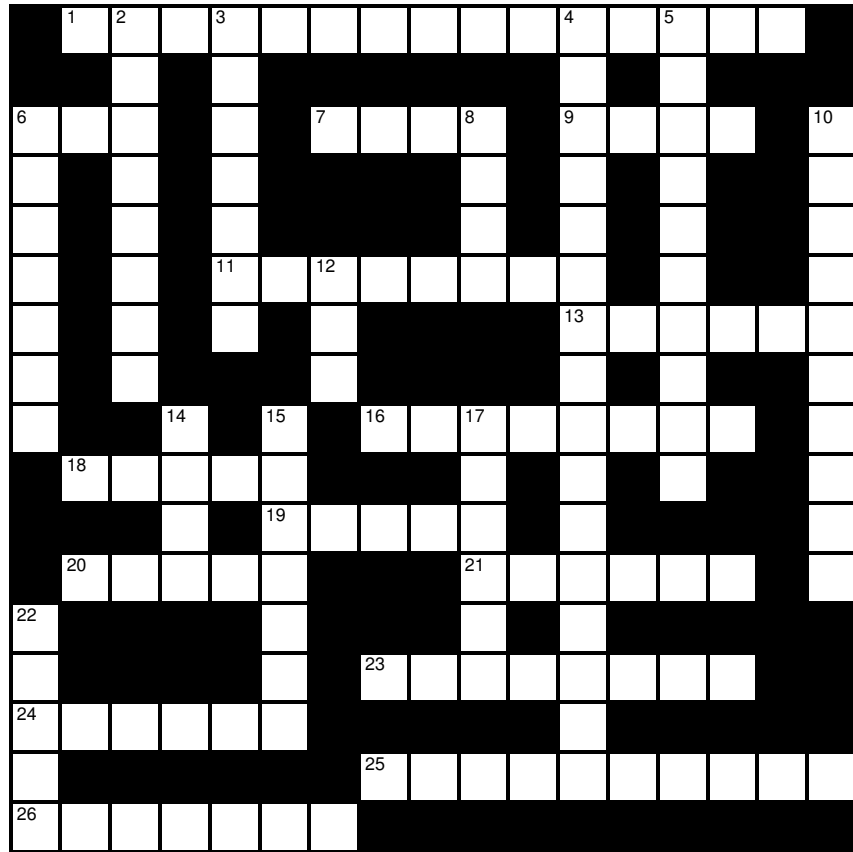
The Home Education Association is hoping to recoup some of the costs of the conference by the sale of these DVDs and by encouraging more homeschooling families to become members.

see

[http://www.hea.asn.au/news\\_viewarticle.asp?id=178](http://www.hea.asn.au/news_viewarticle.asp?id=178)

for more details.

Submitted by Veronica Brandt



### Across

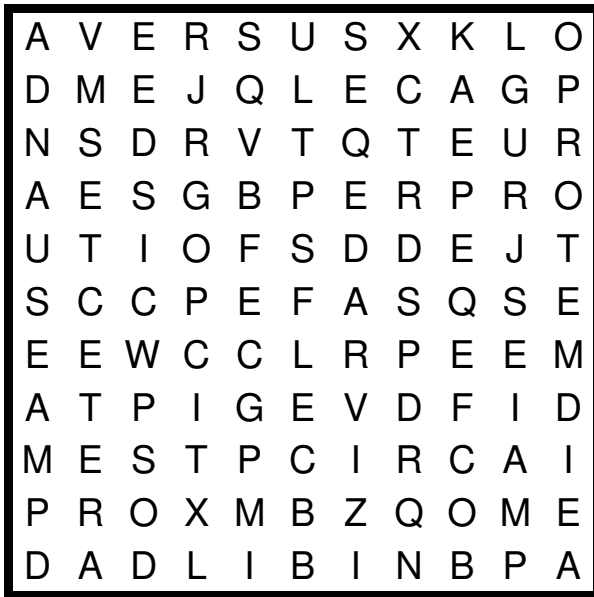
- 1 1st January (9,2,4)
- 6 His wife turned to a pillar of salt (3)
- 7 God created him... (4)
- 9 Roman .. (4)
- 11 It took 6 days (8)
- 13 If you die in mortal sin (6)
- 16 Sodom & ... (8)
- 18 Go to confession to ... your soul (5)
- 19 Sin city (5)
- 20 Food from heaven (5)
- 21 Prayer book (6)
- 23 In dying on the cross Jesus ... us (8)
- 24 Thou art ... among all cattle (6) Gen 3:14
- 25 1000 years (10)
- 26 A boy to his siblings (7)

### Down

- 2 Greek ....Church (8)
- 3 Err (7)
- 4 ... rained down on Sodom (4,3,9)
- 5 Pertaining to antiphons (10)
- 6 Saturday is the...of the week (4,3)
- 8 Three Wise Men (4)
- 10 opposite of 23 across (
- 12 Adam's wife (3)
- 14 PP of the parish in which a cathedral is located (4)
- 15 opposite of saved (7)
- 17 We choose between God and ...(6)
- 22 Esau's brother (5)

*Solution page14 – no peeking!*

## WORDSEARCH



### Clues:

Ad lib

Ad nauseam

AMDG

Circa

E.g.

Et al

Et cetera

FD

Fec

Fl

I.e.

I.q

Ibid

Id est

N.B.

No.

Op. cit.

P.a.

P.S.

Per pro.

Per se

Protem

Prox

Q.E.D.

Q.E.F.

Q.v.

Seq

Sic

Ult

Verb.sap

Versus

Viz

*Solution page14 – no peeking!*

references to good poetry, Shakespeare and Chesterton. All the characters had their own small degrees of peculiarity to make them completely credible. The book is highly recommended for all those fourteen and above especially girls who love good romantic novels. Boys too will love the adventure with the twists and turns in the plot and the four friends who practise sword play and the martial arts. Perhaps the only limitation was the extremely serious nature of \*\*\*'s\* injuries which seemed a little overdone. However, I strongly recommend that all adults order a copy for their teenage children and read it themselves.

Go to <http://www.fairytalenovels.com/> for information on purchasing the book.

\*\*\*

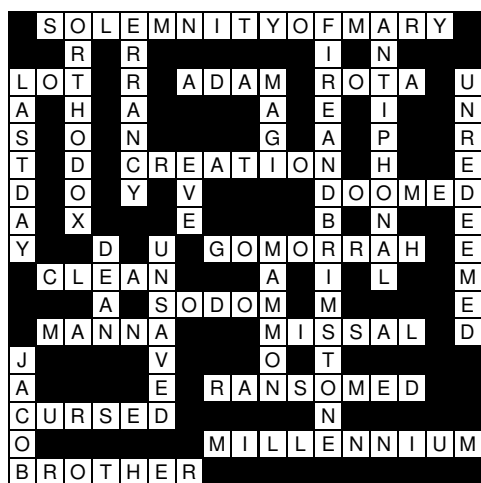
### A Challenge from Fr Tierney

Readers have been challenged by Fr Tierney to search the Internet for the 26 words whose accentation gives the Morse Code for the word's first letter, e.g. aha, di-dah, for A. No prizes – just the intellectual satisfaction.

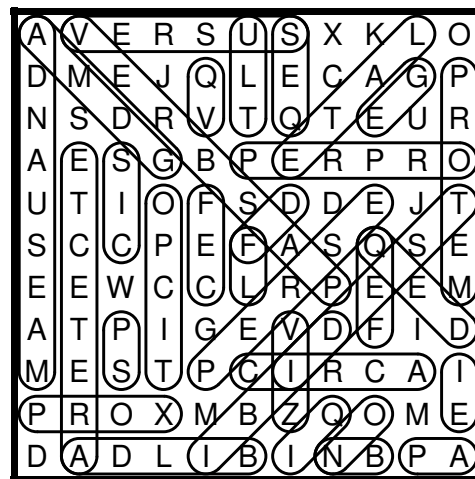
Send your responses directly to Fr.

(Note: the editor spent an hour or so on this challenge and couldn't even locate the example Fr has given.)

### Crossword solution



\* Deleted at the editor's discretion to avoid ruining the plot!



### All of a Kind Family – book review by Lucy Smith

I have just read the five *All of a Kind Family* books by Sydney Taylor. It is about a Jewish family with five daughters who names are Ella, Henny (Henrietta), Sarah, Charlotte and Gertie. Early in the series Charlie their brother is born.

The books tell about everyday events in their lives. One example is when Sarah lends her library book to her friend who says she returned it. It cannot be found and Sarah has to pay the library.

Once Henny gets lost at the seaside. They search frantically. Eventually she shows up at the police station licking an ice cream and holding a lolly pop.

We watch the girls grow up in the Bronx. Then they move to a bigger house in a wealthier area of New York because their father has worked hard.

We learn about Jewish customs and feasts. The girls are just like us and their Mum is thrifty and loving.

Girls and boys from five to twenty should enjoy these books as much as me.

### Andries – book review by Teresa Smith

*Andries* by Hilda Van Stockum was a very enjoyable book. It was about a boy who lost his mother and father when he was ten. He went to live with his uncle who was a bulb farmer and who though children were nuisances. His uncle was unkind to Andries.

The setting was in a Dutch town and then the country. Andries meets the Dykstra children and their mother reminds him of his own. He has a few small adventures with them.

Everyone should read *Andries* to find out if Andries becomes happy and to see if his mean uncle changes. I loved it and children my age should too.

## Catechetical Articles

Father Tierney's new issues of his single sheet handouts will appear on the website [www.cardinalnewman.com.au/Downloads.htm](http://www.cardinalnewman.com.au/Downloads.htm)

The list of handouts is reproduced in the adjacent box for ease of reference.

On request, they will be posted as quality masterprints to those who wish to multiply them for apostolic purposes.

The newsletter "Book News" of the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. will continue to be mailed out and may sometimes include articles by Father Tierney. It will also appear on their website.

For a complete list of resources see the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. website at the address given above.

A Catechism Above Catechisms	Handout No. 1
Australian Bush Catechism of Camping	Handout No. 2
Between You And Me	Handout No. 3
Pastoral Councils Help Foster Pastoral Action	Handout No. 4
How To Write A Story	Handout No. 5
The Great 'O' Antiphons for Advent II	Handout No. 6
Authentic Liturgy	Handout No. 7
St. Joseph The Worker	Handout No. 8
How To Write A Strong Letter	Handout No. 9
Bishops & Priests - Teachers of Faith	Handout No. 10
The 3Cs	Handout No. 11
Classroom Catechist	Handout No. 12
Catholic Family Catechism in 50 Q&A	Handout No. 13
Catholic Family Catechism in 50 Q&A Mini-Ed	Handout No. 14
Anointing Of The Sick	Handout No. 15
The Noble Art of Reading Aloud	Handout No. 16
Pythagoras Theorem	Handout No. 18
What Am I Giving Up For Lent?	Handout No. 20
My Way Of Life	Handout No. 21
Bush Boys On The Move	Handout No. 22
Benediction Hymns	Handout No. 24
Bibles and Commentaries	Handout No. 26
God and the Soul	Handout No. 27
The Best People are Home-made	Handout No. 28
Complimentary and Complementary	Handout No. 31
'Sex-ed' Violates Subsidiarity	Handout No. 33
Compendium of the Catechism	Handout No. 35
Dies Irae	Handout No. 37
Paper Called A4	Handout No. 38
Introduction to Vatican II for High School	Handout No. 40
Early Easter 2008	Handout No. 41
Catechetical Texts in Lord of the Rings	November 2003
Character and Precision	December 2005
Learning to Listen	December 2005
Pronouns and Piety	December 2005
Angels in the Preface	January 2006
More Snippets from Fr Tierney's Log of Ideas	July 2006

### Editorial

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**Issue 1** of Keeping in Touch for 2008 will be edited by

Veronica Brandt  
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### Publication

**KEEPING IN TOUCH** is published about the end of the fifth week of each term. Contributions are invited from Catholic homeschooling families and from priests, religious and laity supporting them. Children's poems, stories and book reviews are very welcome.

Please send contributions on A4 paper, or (preferably) via e-mail where possible.

### Material Deadline

Please note that the preferred deadline for contributions from readers is the **end of the second week of each term**, especially for items which are not submitted by email.

### Availability of KIT

KIT is available on the website of the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. for reading or downloading.

[www.cardinalnewman.com.au/Downloads.htm](http://www.cardinalnewman.com.au/Downloads.htm)

If you would like to be notified by email when a new issue of KIT is coming online, please advise Mr. Shaun Fanning, who currently maintains the address list, at:

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