



Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre e-News



Year of Grace

Autumn 2012 No 3



The Catholic Bishops of Australia are inviting us to join them on a spiritual journey beginning at Pentecost (27 May). In his Pastoral Letter, Archbishop Phillip Wilson, Chair of the Australian Bishops Conference, invites all Catholics to contemplate the face of Christ and ask God for a new wave of grace to forge the future direction and priorities of our nation and church. It is a holy time to start afresh from Christ and **listen to God's Word.**

It is a call to prayer, repentance and listening to the Spirit. We are being encouraged to **recognise God's grace in our lives and seek to encounter Jesus afresh. For further information visit the Archdiocesan website at: www.bne.catholic.net.au/yearofgrace . What better way to embrace this journey than by planning to spend some time on retreat at Santa Teresa!**

Wisdom from Santa Teresa

'Everything is a grace because everything is God's gift. Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events – to the heart that loves, all is well'

Do I see everything in my life as a gift?



What Retreatants are Saying



'The peace and beauty of the natural surroundings was a therapy for my busy and stressful lifestyle.'

'The warmth of the hospitality is palpable, the food delicious and enticing, the setting tranquil and soothing, the accommodation cosy and well equipped and the prayer spaces are simply beautiful.'

'I love the face of Santa Teresa that greets you along the pathway to prayer. It radiates love and joy.'

'My time at Santa Teresa was a pure gift giving me the space to reconnect with God and look at the direction of my life through the lens of faith.'

Santa Teresa Reference Group

There are ten members in the Reference Group, chaired by Sr Mary McDonald sgs, who meet four times a year to review the vision, policy, operations and strategic development of the Centre. One of their key tasks is to develop a document that guides these elements to ensure that the Spirituality Centre fulfils its vision and goals. Their advice to the Management Team is deeply appreciated and shines a light on our operations as well as proposing future directions and developments. Currently, consideration is being given to how the grounds can better provide spiritual spaces for prayer.



A Picture of Activity in 2011



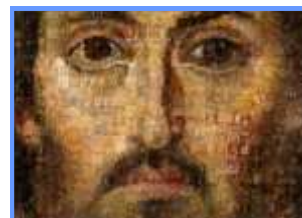
During 2011, 2456 people visited Santa Teresa (1347 in 2010) an increase of 82%
Of this number, 1,120 were day visitors (800 in 2010) an increase of 40%
There were 1336 live-in visitors (547 in 2010) an increase of 144%
On average we welcomed 205 visitors each month to STSC.

Groups of clergy, school staff and students, religious, parish and deanery, archdiocesan staff and renewal groups as well as individual retreatants and ecumenical groups have graced us with their presence during this time.

Group Options

Have you considered organising a group from your parish/deanery to **come to Santa Teresa 'to contemplate the face of Christ' during the Year of Grace** for:

- a morning talk followed by lunch (9am-1pm)
- a twilight prayer session including dinner (5-9pm)
- a day of quiet prayer and reflection (9am-3pm)
- an overnight spiritual formation program (eg Friday evening till Saturday lunchtime)
- a weekend retreat (Friday night till Sunday afternoon)



Lenten Journey



'As well as being a time for fasting, Lent has always meant a deeper concentration of prayer. But instead of an emphasis on the quantity of prayers we say, it is the quality and destination of prayer that is at the heart of Lent. If one of the main ancient themes of Lent is conformity to Jesus Christ and the recreation in us of the pattern of his person and his sacrifice, then the model of prayer that he himself gave us is the starting point par excellence... Lectio Divina can become a major tool in our being formed according to the person of Jesus, especially in our Lenten journey.'
(Excerpt from *Lectio Divina* Praying the Scriptures in Lent and Holy Week Year B 2012, Broken Bay Diocese)

How often do I read and reflect on the person of Jesus found in the Scriptures?

Gratitude for Donation

Our thanks to Fr Albert Chan who responded generously to our appeal for donations in the last newsletter by providing a bible for each room for the use of retreatants during their stay. We continue to seek donations to provide additional liturgical and prayer resources to enrich the experience of those spending time at the Centre. If you are able to help or would like to discuss donor options please contact me or the Resource Development Office (Ph. 3336 9406).



Grace and Peace,

Mike Humphrys

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