



inform

ISSUE 66 September 2006

Newsletter of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

Co adjutor Bishop for Christchurch



Monsignor Barry Jones has been appointed as Co-adjutor Bishop of the Christchurch Diocese.

As a Co-adjutor Bishop, he will be the assistant to Bishop John Cunneen. It also means that he has been appointed the automatic successor of the Bishop when he retires or finishes in office for any other reason.

The Diocese welcomes Bishop Jones with great joy.

At present he is the Parish Priest of Greymouth Parish but he will be ordained a Bishop on the 4th October in the Cathedral at 7pm.



Bishop Elect Barry Jones at home in Greymouth

All are invited to attend this ordination and his first Mass as a Bishop the next day in the Cathedral at 10am.

Our Lady is an essential part of our Catholic Diocesan story

Bishop John Grimes SM, our first Bishop in Christchurch, chose as his episcopal motto: "Si venis mecum, vadam." { If you go with me, I will go } These beautiful words, from the Book of Judges, 4:8 are those of Barak to Deborah. Bishop Grimes applied them to Mary i.e. he would only go as Bishop if the Mother of God accompanied him. He also wrote to his Priests: "We must strive with all our best efforts to inspire and build up in our people a special reverence, devotion and love for her." In our Cathedral, Bishop Joyce lies buried in the Chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, for whom he had a special love. Older Parishioners would remember his eloquent preaching at the Novena in the Cathedral. At the recent Mass for Bishop Cunneen's Golden Jubilee, there was a special incensation of the Icon of Our Lady in our Cathedral. She is still part of our faith story, not just of

course in Christchurch but throughout the Catholic Church. Wherever there is vibrant Catholicism, Our Lady is loved. Truly Catholic homes honour her. The family Rosary has nourished many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Because when Mary is held in Catholic devotion, there is also a love for Christ and for our Holy Mother, the Church. Mary, like any good mother, educates and elevates our hearts towards truth and humility. Her presence in the Communion of Saints brings us peace and unity.

But Our Lady is not a pious option. She does not belong exclusively to any group but to each Parish and to the entire Diocese. As the Second Vatican Council taught solemnly: "Mary occupies a place in the Church which is highest after Christ and yet is very close to us." Lumen Gentium 54. The Council asked us to avoid both

minimalism and maximalism i.e not to exaggerate her place nor to ignore it or downplay it. Catholicism consists in healthy love for what our Faith teaches about her. "She continues to intercede for her children, to be a model of faith and charity for all and to exercise over them a salutary influence deriving from the superabundant merits of Christ." Compendium of the Catechism.197. Notice how this extract from the recent Compendium ends on Christ because Our Lady always leads the Church to love and honour Jesus Christ, Her Son and our one Saviour and Redeemer. As the recent Act of Entrustment of the Pastoral Plan made clear, we today make the words of Bishop Grimes our own: Only if Mary comes with us, will we set out on our new journey as a Diocese.

Fr Carl Telford SM

Letter from Bishop John

Dear brothers and sisters of the Diocesan family,

It was a joy and a blessing to be informed by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Balvo that the Holy Father had appointed Monsignor Barry Jones, Parish Priest of Greymouth, Cobden-Runanga and Ngahere to be Coadjutor Bishop of Christchurch. I have been privileged to be Parish Priest of Rangiora, his home Parish and knew well his parents now deceased and his siblings, including his brother, Allan, a Marist Priest and recently appointed Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre in Wellington. Barry and I served together for some years as Priests in the Cathedral Parish.

In 2002 Pope John Paul II wrote "Shepherds of the Flock" being an Apostolic Exhortation following the 2001 Synod of Bishops, the theme being 1, "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World". The Pope said "the Bishop is called in a particular way to be a prophet, witness and servant of hope. He has the duty of instilling confidence and proclaiming before people the basis of Christian hope."

I invite all in this Diocese to pray supportingly for Bishop-elect Barry and, where possible, to participate in the Mass of Episcopal Ordination in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday October 4th at 7.00pm and his first Episcopal Mass there at 10.00am on October 5th. Car parking will be available in the grounds of Catholic Cathedral College (entrance off Ferry Road or Barbadoes Street) or in the Christchurch Polytechnic grounds.

Time will be given to Bishop Barry



to find his way as a Bishop before I submit my resignation to the Pope. I would, in any case, do this when I reach 75 on the 5th May 2007.

Thank you for the prayers and best wishes on the occasion of my Golden Jubilee of Priesthood on July 8th. Late last month I joined 14 of the 33 classmates at All Hallows College, Dublin. I alone was from New Zealand but there were two priests from Australia, South Africa and Scotland, four from the UK and three from the US. Our 50 years of priestly ministry have in each case been exercised in essentially similar but quite different environments for which we thank God, our formators, colleagues and Parishioners.

Bishop-elect Barry and I joined 83 of the 126 Catholic Bishops of Oceania in Suva, Fiji at the beginning of August. We were from four Bishops' Conferences: Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Cepac/Pacific. Oceania covers one third of the earth's surface and is largely water. Papua New Guinea alone has about 800 different languages, more than half of the languages used by human beings.

A range of topics surfaced in the

discussion, such as greater sharing of resources within the Federation and better communication between the Bishops' Conferences, the Church presenting the life-giving Gospel as an alternative to secular ideologies, pastoral care for people in remote areas and HIV and AIDS. The Bishops from the Pacific Islands voiced great concern about climate change and the implications for their low-lying islands.

World Youth Day 2008 was a particular focus of attention. Bishops and their diocesan teams will be working together to ensure that the youth of Oceania offer a fitting welcome to the youth of the world in July 2008.

Please continue to pray for the fruitful implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan which I launched in the West Christchurch Region on Sunday August 20th, in the South Canterbury Region on Sunday August 27th and will launch in the Mid Canterbury Region on Sunday October 8th.

Every best wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cunneen".

John Cunneen
Bishop of Christchurch

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**REMEMBER
THURSDAY,
A DAY TO PRAY
FOR PRIESTS AND
FOR VOCATIONS
TO THE
PRIESTHOOD**

• • • • •



Pastoral Planning Office



“Members of the Pastoral Advisory Group, Stephen Boock, Mike Stopforth (Bishop’s Deputy), Maureen Kerr, Robin Kilworth, Anne McMenamain, Matthew O’Connell, Fr Rick Loughnan, Peter McGurk”

Pastoral Areas Invited by Bishop to Begin

The two Pastoral Areas of Christchurch West and South Canterbury have taken an important step in the Pastoral Plan.

On separate occasions Bishop John gathered with clergy, religious, members of the Parish Council, Finance and Liturgy committees and Parishioners of each Pastoral Area for a time of prayer and the formal invitation to begin the Pastoral Planning process. *(See photo)*

There is no more appropriate way to begin this process, than in prayer and in a spirit of unity. These liturgies began a new and evolving journey for each Area as they begin to work together with neighbouring Parishes in a new, and I believe exciting way.

From these liturgies the Pastoral Area Councils will form in these two Pastoral Areas.

Communio – why are we using a Latin word?

Communio comes from a Greek word,

‘*koinonia*’, and means ‘fellowship’ or ‘solidarity’. Communio is the only word that fittingly describes this reality of being in union with God and the call to be in unity with our brothers and sisters, expressed most fully in the Holy Trinity. Using this word, Communio, is an opportunity to live this out in our own lives and in our communities.

Acts 4:32 challenges each one of us about Communio. **How do we** become of one heart and one mind?

How do I become of one heart and one mind?

Hamilton Diocese has a pastoral plan with three “commitments”. Interestingly one of these commitments is Communio. So they too see that this is an important element for the future of their Diocese.

Pastoral Advisory Group

The Bishop has established a Pastoral Advisory Group (see photo) to act as a sounding board for me in my role as Bishop’s Deputy for the Pastoral Plan. This group has met three times so far.

“...All the believers were one in heart and mind.”- Acts 4:32

Newsletter

A newsletter has been produced and can be viewed on Parish notice boards or on the Diocesan website: www.chch.catholic.org.nz/pastoralplan

Please continue your prayers for the Diocese and the Pastoral Plan.

I can be contacted on (03) 366 9869 or email mstopforth@chch.catholic.org.nz

Mike Stopforth
Bishop’s Deputy for the Pastoral Plan

From the Diocesan Archives

Another successful archives day was held on June 10. The focus was on caring for material you have at home or in your Parish, with Jane Teale from Anglican Archives providing some useful information and practical demonstrations.

Another day is being planned for later this year, where the subject will be identifying photos held by the archives. People who would like to be advised of the date please phone Merle on Christchurch 358 8758 or email Michael at mhhh@xtra.co.nz

A project to catalogue all photos held has come to a halt with 2440 photos catalogued. The project now moves into several new phases, especially identifying photos already catalogued and acquiring new photos. Photos loaned from private and Parish collections are being scanned. The originals are returned to the owners and the images stored electronically.

Already 600 photos of people, buildings and events have been added to the collection this way.

Anyone who can assist by lending photos is asked to contact one of the above people. Donations of photos for the archives are also gratefully received.

Can anyone identify where this church is *(below)*? The photo is in



the Diocesan Archives, but it may have been taken anywhere in New Zealand (the car has a New Zealand registration plate).

Both the photos above are in the archives collection, labelled as the Kanieri Church. The one with the small belfry is Kanieri, as there are several photos of the same building. Can anyone shed light on the church with the porch on the end?



Carmelite Monastery

Dorethea McKenzie, Fr. Carl Telford, Pat Carroll and Karen Mara, before the ceremony.

Beatitudes Community

The Beatitudes Community will be returning to New Zealand. The Community's Provincial Superior, Sr. Catherine de Sienne, and a small team of brothers and sisters that will include Sr. Clare of Assisi and Sr. Agnes Mead, will be based at the Community's house at Leithfield, North Canterbury, which will become the Community's Asia-Pacific Provincial House for a time. The first members of the team will be arriving in New Zealand in October 2006 and the team expects to be complete by the end of the year. For further information contact Sr. Clare: sr.clare@yahoo.co.nz

The three women pictured were received into the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites on 6th August. In a beautiful ceremony, presided over by Fr. Carl Telford SM, they made a 'definitive promise for life, to be faithful to the constitution of the Order. They were only permitted to make this solemn promise after six years of special spiritual preparation and formation.

They join a group of about 20 lay people who have made this journey before them. They are truly Carmelites, not professed Sisters like the nuns but lay people who now follow a special Carmelite way of life.

Secular Franciscan Order

John Moylan SFO celebrated, on the 15th June 2006, his 50th anniversary as a Professed Secular Franciscan at Nazareth House in Christchurch. This was attended by members of the Christchurch Fraternity, Sisters of Nazareth and members of St. Vincent de Paul from the Bryndrw Parish.

Monsignor Bede O'Gorman officiated at Mass and after the homily, John renewed his Commitment.

John was Professed in 1956 at St. Peters Church in Beckenham by Monsignor James Kennedy. As a Secular Franciscan John found an apostolate with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This started in the early 60's until his retirement in the late 90's. John is a past President for the Bryndwr Parish. Also for 11 years he trained the altar boys at St. Matthews.

Since 1994 John has resided at Nazareth House. He thoroughly enjoys being there and he considers it the best rest home anywhere!!

World Youth Day 2008

Recently Bishop John Cunneen issued a pastoral letter on the 23rd World Youth Day (WYD) being held in Sydney in 2008. In it he said "WYD is ... providential gift to the Church in New Zealand ... a great staging point for the new evangelisation of this country".

WYD was started by Pope John Paul II as a day where he invited young people to come on pilgrimage and gather with him in various cities around the world to celebrate the faith and to meet Jesus Christ anew. WYD's have had a tremendous impact on those who have attended. On pilgrimage, people seek to deepen their relationship with Christ and this is the heart of the WYD experience. Young people come away from WYD transformed, healed and on fire with the love for Christ in their hearts and seeking to radically serve Christ and his Church.

"WYD was everything I dreamt it would be ... I desire to spend the rest of my life sharing the love of God with young people so they may have the hope and joy that young people at WYD display."

The countries hosting WYD also experience transformation as a result of hosting WYD. New Zealand is in the

perfect position to take advantage of this great opportunity. We have become partners with Australia in hosting 'Days in the Diocese' (Days) prior to the WYD week. Pilgrims will be hosted throughout New Zealand for four days and experience our local church and culture. Up to 2000 pilgrims will be hosted in our Diocese. This in itself will have a great impact as people open their homes and hearts to young people from every nation.

Organising the local Diocesan effort for WYD 2008 is a huge task and we need your help!

There are 3 main areas that need to be organised in our Diocese:

- 1 Christchurch Diocesan Pilgrimage – we want to send as many young people (age 16-35) as possible.
- 2 Organisation of Days in the Diocese.
- 3 The Journey of the WYD cross in March/April 2007.

How can you help?

- o The organisation is being headed by a Diocesan committee in conjunction with the Catholic Youth Team.

The ways you can help include the following:

- o Prayer.
- o Get informed by attending information nights.
- o Volunteer to help out.
- o Encourage people aged 16-35 to attend WYD and help them fundraise.
- o Offer to host young people in your homes during 'days'.
- o Join one of the various committees that will be formed.

Imagine 5000+ young people coming back into New Zealand after WYD and the impact this will have on our society. It's not just a dream, it can be a reality but it will require hard work and people willing to help out.

Pope John Paul II often said that now is not the time to be mediocre or apathetic, the time has arrived for action!

For more information on WYD please contact Clare Dooley on 03 3669869.

Catholic Youth Team Staff



Schools

West Coast Schools



“26 of our Altar servers recently had a three day ski odyssey to the Porters Heights ski field during the first week of the school holidays.

In recent years the Altar servers from Ngahere, Rununga, Cobden and Greymouth Parishes have travelled to the mountains as a treat for their services to their Parishes. This year because of the numbers two huts were required at Arthur’s Pass, both the Catholic Out Door Club and Lincoln College’s huts were used.

For some of the children this was their first experience skiing, others were straight on to the steeper slopes. Some parents, and assistant Parish Priest (Fr John), also took advantage of the opportunity to take to the slopes. The group had Mass each day and played charades and other games well into the evening.

Thanks to the Century Foundation, the three Parishes and St Patrick’s School for their contributions.

Marian College

Extending High Standards Across Schools (EHSAS)

Marian College has been recognised by the Ministry of Education as one of the four Christchurch schools to be identified as a ‘leading school’ with the capacity to help other schools to change teaching practice for the better. Because of this they were successful in their application for EHSAS funding.

They will join two other Catholic secondary schools, St Bede’s and Villa Maria, on this professional development programme.

The vision is: *‘Through enhanced leadership, collaboration and*

reflective teaching practice students become more engaged in learning.’

Interesting Item: *The canteen staff have been overwhelmed with the number of girls who now want hot water with their lunches. That is a good healthy drink.*

St Bede’s College

‘Run for a Life 2006’



In April this year St Bede’s conducted their bi-annual fundraising campaign for Canteen (a youth run organisation supporting young people and their families living with cancer). This year was our most successful to date and on August 2nd at a school assembly the College handed Canteen a cheque for \$78,000.

Run Coordinator and St Bede’s Lay Chaplain, Paul Traynor says, “this venture is as much about understanding our gospel responsibilities and the boys leap to this challenge of ‘doing and being for others’.”

Family Life International

Families, Youth and Medical Professionals:

You are invited to join us at the Marriage and Family Life Conference at St Bede’s College 22-24 Sept 2006.

The presenters are Jonathan and Karen Doyle (CHOICEZ Australia) who educate on the dangers of pornography and what to do about it; Dr Joseph Hassan and Dr Catherine Black who take a courageous stand for life in their medical practices, and many other wonderful speakers on matters of life and faith.

Email us for further info:

pregcentrechch@xtra.co.nz or phone 03 356 0961 or visit www.fli.org.nz

An evening for young people from 15-19 yrs and a free Celebration of Life Evening with the Sisters of Life will also be held on Saturday 23rd September.

Registrations essential.

Quote of the Month

Help when slipping Psalm 94:17-19

If Yahweh did not come to my help, I should soon find myself dwelling in the silence.

I need only say, ‘I am slipping,’ for your faithful love, Yahweh, to support me; however great the anxiety of my heart, your consolations soothe me.



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Around the Parishes

St. Peter's Parish, Beckenham



Fr Leo Mcateer's Golden Jubilee

On 9 July 2006 190 people from the North Canterbury Parishes in the Hurunui District and Fr Leo's family and friends gathered at St Mary and St Francis de Sales Church in Rangiora to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of Fr Leo's Ordination.

The celebrations commenced with Mass celebrated by Fr Leo and concelebrating Priests.

Following Mass there was a Jubilee Luncheon in the Chervier Centre. The meal was superb. Paddy Clifford, Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, was Master of Ceremonies, Fr's cousin Judy Cumow spoke on behalf of the family, Maureen Fitzgibbon of Cheviot proposed a toast to Fr. and the guest speaker was Mike Crean. A thoroughly enjoyable day and a memorable occasion for Fr Leo.

Sumner Parish

Fr. Denis Nolan's great aunt

She lived through nine Papacies and six Monarchies.

Aileen Julia O'Rourke 1897-2006

Recently Fr. Denis Nolan and his sister Mary travelled to Hobart, Tasmania for the funeral of a great aunt. "She was 108 and a half years old" said Fr. Denis. "She was baptised in 1897, married my grandfather's brother in 1920 and buried in 2006, all from the same St Joseph's Church in Hobart although the family lived out of town in a district called Cygnet."

"She had 12 children, and has 156 descendants. Married for 30 years, her husband died in 1950, however she lived another 78 years. It's staggering isn't it", Fr. Denis continued.

In a moving eulogy on behalf of the family, her son Terry described their mother as a lovely woman. "She was pretty, smart, determined and hard-working, generous, kind and patient. She loved our father and he loved her, she loved us children and we knew it. She was holy, loved God and was all anyone could expect in a mother". May she rest in peace.

Christ the King Parish

Alpha 2006

Alpha (a basic introductory course on Christianity) was held over 10 weeks and a weekend away in the second term this year. We had close to 50 participants over the Wednesday night and Thursday morning groups. Alpha has been going in our Parish for close to ten years and has proved to be a great evangelising tool for the Parish. Lives have changed and people have found renewed life in their Catholic faith because of the Alpha experience. A highlight of each course is the weekend away - this year in the beautiful Glentui spot. With the focus on the Holy Spirit it is a very special time for all. On the Saturday night for the first time we had a concert full of great talent and lots of laughter. A fun way to finish the day. On the Sunday we had a most moving Mass. Because it was Pentecost Sunday, it had so much significance. Alpha is run by a very dedicated team who serve the Lord in bringing Alpha to more people, often because it has made such an impact on their own lives. This year as well we had two young adults who gave up their weekend to babysit at Glentui. Post Alpha we have "Knowing God Better" a CaFE module which gives a Catholic perspective and is proving inspiring. I will finish with some quotes from some of this year's participants.

"I developed a relationship with God."

"Found the Holy Spirit at the weekend away."

"Deepened my personal relationship with Jesus."

"The ability to tell others about Christ and realise that God commands us to spread the Good News. It's not a suggestion."

"A wonderful reawakening of my faith."

"Awesome experiences of the work of the Holy Spirit."

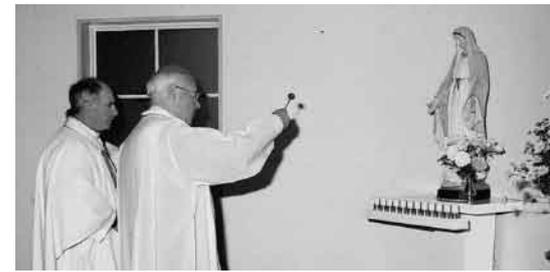
Indeed many blessings flowed from Alpha 2006.

Janet Archer

Mass being celebrated at the Alpha weekend



Halswell Parish



Fr. J. Noonan and the Bishop blessing the candles

Halswell Catholic Women's League

We recently celebrated 50 years of 'Faith and Service' in the Halswell Parish with Mass, lunch and a social evening. Bishop John blessed the new electronic Votive Candles gifted by the League as thanks to the Parish for their support over the years.

Sockburn Parish

21 day Pilgrimage departed: Rome -

Lourdes - Avila - Fatima - Dublin - London.

We were 33 in number, 26 from our own Parish and seven from other parts of the Diocese.

The meetings we held even months before we set out on pilgrimage, enabled us to get to know one another better and equip ourselves to be, in the true sense of the word, pilgrims united on a journey. Harvest Pilgrimages provided us with a Pilgrim Manual which became our prayer book, hymn book, and diary. Practical details like being met at airports, accommodation, meals and bus transport were all superbly executed by Harvest.

Before we departed Fr John farewelled us on behalf of the Parish with these words: "We farewell the thirty three Parishioners who begin their three week journey this week. While they will visit many of the best known tourist spots of Europe, they are not tourists. They are pilgrims and these three weeks are for them, and for us who remain here, days of pilgrimage. Our Parish pilgrims will carry their own intentions. But because they are pilgrims they also carry our own prayers. As they pray at places of pilgrimage you may want them to pray for you with some specific intention. To each of you who travel, our prayer is for a safe and healthy journey. May God go with you".



The pilgrimage opened us up to a deeper appreciation of our catholic faith handed down to us from these ancient times and strengthened through the modern visionaries of Lourdes and Fatima and by our own day-by-day experiences of meeting other pilgrims and praying with them.

Visit the pilgrimage website at www.olv.co.nz. These photos can still be viewed.

Timaru Sacred Heart Parish



Rita Minehan's Death

Rita died six weeks before her 100th birthday on 2 July 2006. A strong, staunch Catholic lady, mother of six children, honoured with a

Queen's Service Medal and the Papal Benemerenti Medal. Great defender of the unborn, 78 years a bell ringer at the Basilica (1925-2003) and a renowned piano teacher, she will be greatly missed in the Parish and the wider community.

Celtic Rugby Club Centennial



400 attended the celebrations coming from all over the world. Many celebrations took place over the weekend 2-4 June but the highlight for most was the Centennial Mass celebrated on the Sunday.

The cake cutters, Bob O'Connor and Bernie (Bricky) Mulcahy, two wonderful Catholic men, have been members of Celtic for over 70 years. A fitting end to 100 years for Celtic when they won Sth Canterbury Club Championship on the 29th July.

Temuka, St Joseph's Parish

We had a weekend of celebration in early August beginning with St Joseph's Netball Club celebrating 75 years, and on Sunday the Parish marking its 130th Anniversary and 125 years since the formal opening of the church. Saturday's Netball Jubilee began by watching the current netball teams playing in the Temuka competition, then back to the school to watch a 9-aside game played by many of the middle-aged and senior ex-players, then a 7-aside game by some of the more younger members. A meal and entertainment followed in the evening attended by 93 ex members.

The Parish Jubilee began with morning Mass. Lunch followed and then to celebrate 125 years of the formal opening of the church, an organ recital with Parish organists playing, plus an item from the St Joseph's school children. People from other denominations attended and it was an enjoyable afternoon.



Brother and Sister, Bill and Kath Scott cutting the Jubilee Cake

With Mary MacKillop's feast day on 8 August, Sr. Lorraine Gaines RSJ organised a display of early times of the school and the Sisters of St Joseph, which was open for RSJ Associates and all to view in the Mary MacKillop rooms on the Convent site. The Catholic Schools from Pleasant Point and Fairlie joined our school children for Mass and activities.

Mairehau, Our Lady of Fatima Parish

To ask God's blessing on the Parish in the month of July, instead of the usual meeting, the Parish Council decided to have a time of recollection, and Father Paul invited the Parishioners to join. The evening was addressed to Mary, Queen of Peace and through Fr. Paul's words we followed Mary and her perfect discipleship. After two hours of prayer and reflection the evening ended with night prayer and Benediction.

Many people throughout Nth Canterbury and also the school community of Our Lady of Fatima will be saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sister Luke O'Herlihy in Dublin. After working six years based in Hawarden, she taught at our school in Maireahu, becoming also the first Regional Superior of the Holy Faith Sisters in Australia and NZ. May she rest in peace.

Also we offer our prayers of sympathy to Pauline Quinn and her family on the death of Niall. A brilliant scholar and a fine rugby player Niall was stricken with multiple sclerosis at the age of 21 and spent the last seven years of his life in the loving care of the Hospitallers of St. John of God. To the world his life seemed unfulfilled but, listening to Sister Mary Boyce at the Requiem Mass, we heard how full his life was and what joy he brought to his fellow patients.

Rest in Peace, Niall.



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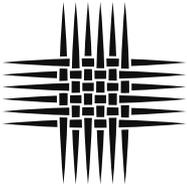
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Dr. Tom Paulay and Catholic Students in action

In 1950, five years after the end of World War 2, West Germany was struggling to recover from the ravages and also to provide shelter for some eight million Germans expelled from neighbouring countries, and five million refugees from Central Europe.

In NZ six students, members of the Catholic Newman Society at Victoria University, decided to try and help one of the millions even though it might seem to be a drop in the bucket. Although they thought that sponsoring a 17 or 18 year old student would be best they eventually chose, from many applicants, a 27 year old married man with one child, Tom Paulay. He had already completed two years on engineering studies in Hungary.

Tom was in West Germany because he had to flee persecutions in Hungary from the then Communist Government.

In two years he had completed an Engineering Degree at Canterbury. After working in Wellington for eight years he was invited to lecture at Canterbury. While doing this he did research and was awarded a PhD for this research.

Dr. Tom Paulay has become internationally recognised as a leading expert in the area of the effects of earthquakes on buildings and bridges. He was Professor of Civil Engineering for many years at U.C. and is now Professor Emeritus. He is still called on for his expertise from all parts of the world.



In recognition of this expertise in his field, he has received many International Awards including four other PhD degrees and an OBE from the Queen.

It was the faith and action of the Catholic students that started all this off. Twenty five years later he and his wife, Gerta, had a reunion with them in order to thank them once again. He wondered why he had been chosen and one of the former students said, "You were chosen because we thought you were the hardest case by a long shot."

Fundamental to Tom and Gerta's life is their strong Catholic faith. They see all the twists and turns of their long and varied life as very much guided by the hand of God. They have been happy Parishioners of one of our city Parishes for the last 43 years.

The six students made a difference even though they thought at first nothing much could be done. They decided to help ONE person.

There must be a lesson in this for all of us.

Inform

A quarterly published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch.

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