

# SA News – 2010

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*Newsletter of the SA Cluster of the Christian Brothers*



## EVENTS

### CREAT VISIT – SATURDAY 1 & SUNDAY 2 MAY

Luke Quinn and Terry Casey were with us at the beginning of May to facilitate us in our CREAT gathering. We gathered with them for the Saturday from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm and again on Sunday morning. The reflections based on the image of the broken pot were very powerful. It was very moving to be with the brothers who were so open in their sharing of their vulnerability (brokenness or crackedness) and awareness of the giftedness that comes from this vulnerability. It truly was a blessed time. Sincere thanks to Luke and Terry for facilitating this experience for us and for being with us and also for visiting most of the Communities while they were here with



CREAT Gathering



Celebrating Terry Casey's Birthday at the CREAT Session

### *Upcoming Birthdays ...*

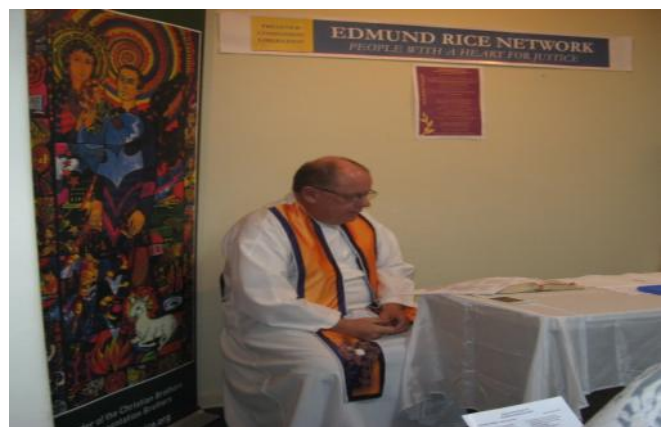
There are no birthdays of SA Brothers in June

### EDMUND RICE FEAST DAY – WEDNESDAY 5 MAY.



There were about fifty in attendance at the celebration of the Feast Day at Thebarton. Mass was celebrated by Fr Peter Gardiner. Peter Hartman-Kearns (from FAME) was to have led the reflection at Mass, but unfortunately he had car troubles. Thanks to Michael Flaherty for stepping in and

presenting the reflection he had given at the CBC Mass earlier in the day. It truly was a special celebration of the gift of Edmund's life for the Brothers and the Network. It is celebrations like this that I am grateful for what we have here in SA in our Network.



## EVENTS continued . .

### PUBLIC ADDRESS BY PHIL GLENDENNING



Phil Glendenning of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, Sydney (author of *A Well Founded Fear*) gave the inaugural Edmund Rice Feast Day Address titled "Australia where the first and last are guaranteed equal treatment" on the day before the Feast Day. Considering the windy and wet weather, there was a good turn out of Brothers, members of the Network and interested others at the Migrant Resource Centre in the city. Please find as attachment to this SA News, some key excerpts from Phil's address.



Vince Duggan, Mark McGlaughlin, Phil Glendenning & Br John Webb. We thank Vince Duggan for being present at this inaugural Public Address and also for Feast Day Celebrations. In Adelaide

### DR JAMES NICKOLOFF WORKSHOP – MONDAY 17 MAY

This day was held at Rostrevor College in the Gold Room. It was an initiative of EREA and primarily for teachers in the EREA schools, but there were a number of the Brothers present. The title of the presentation was Catholic Schools and the Church of the Poor. Jim is the editor of *Gustavo Gutierrez: Essential Writings* (1996) and well as other works on the liberation theology movement. He introduced the day by telling something of his own story and his close involvement with the poor in many countries, but particularly in South America where he came to know Gutierrez personally and worked with him. There was a focus on the development of the Church's understanding of the place of the Poor. I was particularly interested in the statements: of the Vatican Council; the Popes; and the gath-

erings of the South American Bishops that Jim presented to us. The final exercise, where, in groups, we explored what the different Sacraments would look like if they were re-envisioned with the Poor at the centre was quite fascinating. It was an excellent day.

### FAME OPEN DAY – TUESDAY 18TH MAY



James Nickoloff Workshop

The intention of the open day was to showcase what was happening at FAME. Many people with an interest in the program were there: parents, staff members from the Southern Schools, Counsellors, members of the church in which FAME operates and many other interested people. Again at this gathering there was a very good turn up of Brothers. It was good to have the opportunity to meet the staff and students and get some idea of the very positive spirit and to see some of the things that students have been involved with. It was particularly appropriate that this open day was held at this time when Dayle's leadership of the program is drawing to a close. She has done wonders with the program since she has been in charge.



Trevor  
Dean,  
Daryl &  
Dayle  
Fore man

Vince Fleming &  
Ben McCabe →



### FINAL NOTE

At the moment I am in Perth for the Forum. We will be meeting from Tuesday (lunch time) to Friday (lunch time). As mentioned above there will be some work on the Province Structures and a review of the role of the Cluster Leader. We will also be working with members of the Network on ER Network matters and spending some time focusing on Province Ministries. Please keep us in your prayers in this time.

John Webb

## Coming Events

### SANDRA SCHNEIDERS SEMINAR SATURDAY 29 MAY

This Seminar is to be held from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on 29 May at Sacred Heart College in the Br Stephen Debourg Performing Arts Centre. Cost is \$30 payable at the door (cash or by cheque payable to Catholic Religious SA). Morning and afternoon tea is provided but BYO Lunch. There are still places and so if you want to come please do so and see me. I will be at the door.

### RETREAT AT MIDDLETON – JULY 4 TO 10

This retreat commences with the evening meal Sunday 4 July and concludes on Saturday afternoon 10 July. The theme is “Be My Disciple” with emphasis on heart-centred spirituality. Attached with this SA News is an update from Michael Flaherty. Please contact Michael or me if you are interested in attending.

### VISITATION – JULY 23 TO 29

As previously announced, the Visitation is to be conducted by Joe Lauren and Peter Harney from Friday 23rd to Thursday 29th July. It will be held in individual communities this year. Please let me know if there are times that most suit your Community for the two hour session with Peter and Joe. As previously mentioned, they have asked whether Huntfield Heights and West Beach can come together for this input and discussion. Because of having to fit in the timetables of five people, Thebarton Community would like to have their session on Tuesday evening 27th July.

*Further Coming Events  
Continued on page 4*

## Prayers

**JAMES MURRAY’S BROTHER:** James is in Perth to celebrate the 90th Birthday of his brother. His brother is very unwell at the moment and so I recommend him to your prayers.

**KEVIN RYAN:** Kevin has finished his course of chemotherapy. He waits to have scans to see how effective the treatment has been. Let us keep Kevin in our prayers.

**BEN MCCABE:** Ben is making a full recovery after has episode of paralysis early in the week. He expects to return to Thebarton from Magill today or tomorrow .

## Recently Died

The following have died recently. Let us pray for the repose of the souls of the following and for the comforting of their families and all who loved them. I’ve been in communication with Pat Cronin & we intend to have a Mass for those who have recently died in about a months time at Regent Street.

### FLORENCE CRONIN

Pat’s Mother died with family members around her on Friday 7th May. The funeral was held at her parish church on Wednesday and the large gathering was a genuine Faith filled celebration of her life. The family members were fully involved in various parts of the Mass to celebrate the life of their Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother. Pat and his sister Mary presented the eulogy and it painted a very moving picture of a remarkable woman. It was a privilege to be part of this truly Faith Filled Celebration.

### KEVIN FLAHERTY

Michael’s brother died on Tuesday 18 May. His family had been keeping vigil around his bedside over the previous few days. Again, it was good to be part of the celebration of Kevin’s life. Michael presented the eulogy for his brother and gave us insights into Kevin’s character. I have included the eulogy as attachment.

Michael asked me to include the following message:

*Thanks Brothers for your prayerful remembrances on the death of my brother, Kevin. aged 82. A good number of SA Brothers were able to attend the Mass and many others sent emails or cards.*

Much appreciated, Michael Flaherty.

### PAT MOHEN

Pat has come close to death from blood poisoning a number of times and has been somewhat less than grateful for having been brought back, so it is with mixed feelings that I heard the news that Pat died on the night of 12th May. He was a remarkable man as so many have testified. I have previously forwarded the tributes that Pat Kelly sent out.

### NATASHA SIEBERT’S SISTER ANYA

News has been received that Anya died on Monday at the Mary Potter Hospice. She has had a long battle with the cancer that finally caused her death. Let us keep Natasha and all the Siebert family in our prayers and thoughts at this time.

Please see message from Natasha:

*For those who would like to attend, Anya’s Funeral will be this Saturday, May 29, at St Matthew’s Catholic Church, 1 Wembley Avenue, Bridgewater. The Funeral Mass will be at 11 am, and people are welcome to stay for refreshments afterward.*

In lieu of flowers, donations to Rural Youth Arts Projects can be made to “Anya’s Fund” care of Carclew Youth Arts, 11 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide 5006.

*Thank you all for you support and prayers – we are all very relieved that Anya is now free.*

## BOOK REVIEW (MICHAEL FLAHERTY)

### THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Pope Pius XII

By Sr Margherita Marchione

Sr Margherita is Professor Emeritus of Italian Language and Literature and author of more than sixty books, eight of which are on Pius XII. Reviewers say she is uncompromising, honest, totally committed to the truth and even combative. This book is timely because it is 50 years since Pius XII died; much has been achieved towards his beatification and with the visit of Pope Benedict to Israel the same old controversy about this Pope and the plight of Jews during War World 11 is being trotted out by the media. The author says the controversy is not coming from well-informed scholars but as more of a vendetta carried out by a small number of ill informed writers eager to satisfy the scandal-famished media. The title of the book by John Cornwell "Hitler's Pope" still carries stigma and is still trotted out in the media even though John Cornwell acknowledged that he erred in many ways when writing his book.

The author has researched the relevant sources and interviewed many who were involved personally in what occurred to Jews during the War. Even the adverse comments made by Hitler and key Nazi followers prove that Pius XII was certainly not Hitler's Pope.

Sr Margherita quotes Jewish writers and politicians who heaped praise on Pius XII for his protection of Jews, his directions to open Convents (155 convents and monasteries in Rome alone) to hide Jewish women and children, his support, financially and otherwise, to help Jews escape and the setting up a system that received 20 million calls to help to locate family members during and after the War. From Pius XII's thirteen years experience as the Papal Nuncio in Germany before the War, he knew firsthand the German situation. He could not endanger or intensify the persecution of 40 million German Catholics and as well as German Jews. Some who are ill-informed criticise the so called 'silence' of Pius XII.

The campaign of vilification against Pius XII began in the 1960's not during or after World War 11. Although he is one of the most distinguished prelates ever to serve the church, Pius XII has been subjected to more unjust criticism than any of his predecessors. This book, the result of twelve years of scholarly work on Pius XII, refutes this unjust criticism. The book records how up to the 1960's the Jewish press worldwide praised Pius's help for Jews throughout Hitler's reign of terror and expressed gratitude for saving hundreds of thousands of Jews. The author disproves the charges of 'silence', 'indifference' and 'unconcern about Jews'. It is clear

that Pius was not about silence but about intelligent and strategic speaking as demonstrated in his 1942 Christmas radio message, which infuriated Hitler. As Albert Einstein said, 'Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing the truth.'

The criticism of not making Vatican archives available is not true because they were opened at the direction of Pope Paul VI, who engaged four Jesuit historians to study the documents. More than five thousand documents were published in twelve volumes. Historian Eamon Duffy stated that these volumes 'decisively established the falsehood of Hochhurth's specific allegations in his fictional play 'The Deputy' which maligned Pius XII.

This book adds a new level of information concerning Pius XII's wartime work. It overcomes five decades of calumny and misinformation and reveals the esteem for this Pope during his life time and for decades afterward. The recordings of the Jewish press worldwide is covered, and tribute is paid by grateful Jews saved through the effort of this Pope. The statements of eyewitnesses during the Holocaust are particularly telling.

As I read this book I was reminded of 'The Da Vinci Code' and the influence it held in the media in spite of so much written research in refuting its claims. This book is for those wishing to know the truth about Pope Pius XII. It should be read by media people before they repeat untruths about this Pope. There is little hope they will read it but at least those seeking the truth will find it here and hopefully spread it to others. This book is not for all but for the interested a very good read, the fruits of detailed scholarship and research.

### *Coming Events continued . . .*

#### **REVIEW OF PROVINCE STRUCTURE**

##### **SATURDAY AUGUST 7**

In each Cluster there is to be a consultation with the Brothers reviewing Province Structures within the next three months. Those who will conduct the review in a Cluster will be a member of the OLT (not the Liaison Person for the Cluster) with two Cluster Leaders from other Clusters.

In the case of SA, OLT member, Chris Meehl and two Cluster Leaders Kev Laws and Dan Stewart will be here to conduct the consultation and the date is to be Saturday 7th August. The review meeting is expected to be 2 - 3 hours. I have not set the time. Alternatives could be morning, afternoon or over lunch. Let me know if you have any strong preferences.

In the Leadership Forum that I am attending in Perth, there will be further information and discussion. I will be able to give further information when I return.