



The Beef

Issue 3

January 2010



From the Editor

Welcome to 2010!!! Youth Ministry in our diocese is ready to roll out a bunch of new and exciting adventures. I look forward to visiting across the Diocese and working with all our parishes and schools.

In this edition of 'The Beef' you'll find news about the Diocese's Youth Council to the Bishop (YC2B), the recent YCS National Conference, Bundaberg Parish's youth festival 'Worship Under the Stars', WYD updates and more. In 2010 expect to see Youth Gatherings in Bundaberg (May), our West (July), Mackay (September) and Rockhampton (December).

Articles for 'The Beef' need to be emailed to youth@rok.catholic.net.au by the 15th of February; April; June; August, October and December.

Peace and blessings,
Bethany

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www.facebook.com/RockyDYM

Australian Young Christian Students National Conference 2010

One of the most intense weeks of your life-but one of the most fulfilling. Find out what it's about.

Day One 10th Jan

After a slightly bumpy landing Caitlin, Maddi, Zoe and I arrived at Brisbane airport where we joined a group of students and adults from Canberra/Goulburn, Parramatta and Melbourne Dioceses.

We moved on to St James College where we took part in a forum about racism in Australia. It was incredible to see about 80 students gather from around Australia for the conference. AYCS has made a pledge about anti-racism and it going to be sent to schools all across the country! We then moved venues to the Outlook at Boonah-it's BEAUTIFUL! We had a relaxing evening, house rules, welcome and reflection. Time for some shut eye...

Day Two 11th Jan

Today started with an awesome action story and reflection from the Port Pirie group, and passing our first vote for our standing orders. As observers our diocese doesn't have a vote but all the same its great to watch it all unfold. We've also covered the areas of the movement, our 2020 and 2010 goals. It's a bit overwhelming but our small groups help to break things open. We got to see presentations from all the different Dioceses about the reality of their situations and what YCS is doing in their areas. Tonight we voted on

who the next National Workers will be - Congrats to Merida Cook, Vicky Burrows and Elise Gangly!

Day Three 12th Jan

Parramatta hosted today's action story and reflections. Then the National Executive Members started taking us through sessions about the Three Truths, the Review of Life, and different leadership skill workshops. My head is positively reeling! Everyone looked ready for bed at 6pm... Tonight's dinner was intense. We had a Poverty Meal. I was sitting on a cement floor, eating plain rice (with my hands), watching 25 people at a table eat rice and a plain sauce with only a fork, and 10 people eating rice with a meat sauce, bread rolls, drinking coke and even having flowers to decorate their table! I don't think anyone ate much tonight... when you realise that you're someone who normally sits at that fancy table looking down on everyone else you tend to lose your appetite. Our diocesan group tonight was really good, I'm looking forward to tomorrow. Off to evening reflection and then to bed.

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Laugh a Little

A customer was bothering the waiter in a restaurant. First, he asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked it be turned down cause he was too cold, and so on for about half an hour.

Surprisingly, the waiter was very patient, he walked back and forth and never once got angry. So finally, a second customer asked him why he didn't throw out the p e s t .

"Oh, I really don't care or mind," said the waiter with a smile. "We don't even have an air conditioner"

Worship Under the Stars

On the last weekend in November, The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg put on *Worship Under the Stars* event for youth aged Grade 7 & up. Over 30 youth were in attendance and the night kicked off with some ice-breaker games, followed by a BBQ dinner. Our faith focus was centred around Louie Giglio's *Indescribable*, a DVD exploring the wonders of our God, in relation to the vast infinities of our Universe and his undying love for us. A small group session followed the DVD, allowing us to share our thoughts and help each other stand what was witnessed.



The youth band then pumped out some songs, and reconciliation was made available with the help of our Parish priest, Fr Terry Loth. Special guest speakers for the night were Joey Hizon and Sarah King, both sharing very inspiring and encouraging talks about their lives & faith journeys.

The night concluded with quite a moving Adoration experience in the Church. Most people slept on the floor in 2 of the classrooms - World Youth Day style.

Sunday morning began with a shared breakfast and finished with an acoustic sing-a-long in Church before Mass.



The entire Church community was very supportive of the event. St Patrick's school allowed us to use the school while Shalom College let us borrow the sound equipment.

This event also acted as a re-launch for youth group in our community. Please have us in your prayers as we try to re-establish youth ministry in our Parish, and share the love of Christ with the next generation of the church.

Australian Young Christian Students National Conference 2010 from page 1

Day Four 13th Jan

The students from Peth ran the morning Action Story and Reflection, it was awesome! We learnt about the relationship YCS has with Young Christian Workers. Our Diocese is really excited to try and set up links with any YCW groups that start up in our Diocese. This afternoon was our afternoon off. Tonight was formal night, it was incredible! Everyone got dressed up and the adults served all the students. After dinner we had a dance party before we went to Diocesan Groups to review the day and to Perth's night time reflection.

Day Five 14th Jan

After yesterdays break I woke up feeling fantastic and really excited to see what Canberra Goulburn would do for their Action Story and Reflection. Today we learnt more about the history of the YCS and Joseph Cardijn (the founder of YCS), and the YCS movement in Fiji. Although I've been involved in YCS for four years now, I still got so much out of both of these sessions. Definitely a highlight of my week. This afternoon was a bit more stressful with voting taking place our 3 of our action plan areas: Relationship with God, Mission and Leadership Skills. We got there though and the final decisions were awesome. After all this we went into our small groups for our second personal review of life. This was a looonnnngggg day but it was great to finish up with our Diocese gathering and then going to night time reflection together.

Day Six 15th Jan

I cannot believe it's day six already! Melbourne is hosting the Action Story and Reflections today. The main focus today was what the Faith in Action Area would be... this went majorly overtime as everyone really struggled to work out what was best for the National Movement. Eventually a decision was reached and over the next two years AYCS will use "100% Respect" as their national campaign with a sub-campaign of Fair-trade. In the afternoon we looked at Personal Membership Contributions, had a FANTASTIC quiz after dinner (my team came second-good job!), had our Diocesan time, and our reflec-

tion. Tonight's reflection was incredible, a really moving experience where everyone had the opportunity to affirm those around them. Tomorrow will be a busy day-definitely time for me to go to sleep.

Day Seven 16th Jan

It's our second last day of the conference and our final Action Story and Reflection-Townsville did an awesome job of it. Today has been crazy! We started off with learning about financial sustainability; more planning and voting on 2012 aims for Recruitment, Adult Assistants and Chaplains, Promotion and International YCS; using YCS resources; and how to put the conference into action. This evening we celebrated mass and it was amazing! I felt so moved and so empowered tonight. After dinner we had our talent night where lots of people got up and had a go. I cannot believe how many people had such incredible levels of talent! After a fantastic last Diocesan Group Review, we experienced a really moving meditation reflection before trying to get some packing underway and heading to bed.

Day Eight 17th Jan

Today was a pack up, clean up and gather for our final address and say our farewells before we headed back to Brisbane. We made it back in good time. The Dioceses of Rockhampton and Port Pirie hit Queen Street Mall for some lunch and a quick shop before our shuttle bus left for the airport. Saying goodbye was really tough. There were so many to people to say goodbye to, so many places to plan to visit and so many tears as we all realised how close a family we had become over the past week. The whole week was incredible, I'm definitely looking forward to sleeping in my own bed but I will greatly miss seeing so many students take action to bring about a better world. Caitlin, Zoe and Maddi made my week an awesome one-thanks girls! I can't wait to see YCS up and running in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

Bethany.



Left: Small group
Centre: Our Diocesan Group at formal night
Right: Poverty Meal

What Can YOU Do To Prepare?

Start Saving

While prices have not been set, we know from previous WYD's that it won't be cheap! Start putting aside a bit of money each week.

Learn Spanish

When you get there you want to be able to communicate with the host country. Hold a Spanish party with your friends, join a class or find some online lessons. Start practicing today!

Pray

Your WYD pilgrimage begins the day you decide to go so it's never too early to start praying. Start a prayer circle, get your school or parish involved and most of all... get God involved.

Spanish Lesson 2: Directions

How do I get to ...?	<i>Como puedo llegar a ...?</i>
Is it far?	<i>Esta lejos?</i>
Go straight ahead	<i>Siga/Vaya derecho</i>
Turn left	<i>doble a la izquierda</i>
Turn right	<i>Doble a la derecha</i>
Can you show me (on the map)?	<i>Me lo podria indicar (en el mapa)?</i>
Open	<i>Abierto</i>
Closed	<i>Cerrado</i>
Police Station	<i>Comisaria</i>
Entrance	<i>Entrada</i>
Prohibited	<i>Prohibido</i>
No Smoking	<i>Prohibido Fumar</i>
Exit	<i>Salida</i>
Toilet	<i>Servicios/Aseos</i>
Men	<i>Hombres</i>
Women	<i>Mujeres</i>



Did you know...

A lot of Spanish shops close from 2-4pm while employees go home for a siesta.

What to expect...

Did you attend WYD in Sydney? Do you think you know what to expect in WYD'11? Here's a few things to keep in mind to help you prepare...

- 1) The number of international pilgrims in Sydney was low compared to other WYD's. Spain's close proximity to other countries means it will be MUCH easier for pilgrims to travel there. Expect more people to meet, more crowds, bigger lines, more music, singing, praying, celebrating (it is possible!) and just more!
- 2) Don't expect signs and notices to be in English and don't expect people to speak English. Start learning some Spanish now so you can get the most of this pilgrimage.
- 3) Your accommodation could be sleeping on a foam mattress in a school hall with 50 other people from different groups, or it could be in a youth hostel dorm room with 20 other people. You could find toilets break down, or there might only be cold showers. You could also be in a motel with a bathroom between 2 people. You never know so be prepared for anything!
- 4) Sydney's WYD cost a couple of hundred dollars. Travelling to Spain for WYD could cost anywhere between \$6000 and \$10 000. Final prices have not been set yet, but be prepared and start saving today.

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Alive and Well

Ask Fr Andy...

Got a question you'd like Fr Andy to answer? Send it to youth@rok.catholic.net.au

The bible is a very contradictory text why do we as Catholics accept the 'God is all loving' slant whilst other religions make him out to be an 'all fearing God' and both religions are backed up by statements in the bible?

That's a great question, and one that many people have wrestled with over the centuries.

For a start though, I'd probably phrase your initial statement a little differently: I'd say the Bible's text is complex, often mysterious and full of many layers of meaning, but not contradictory. We have to realise that the Bible is a collection of writings, inspired by God, but written by different authors at different times. Therefore different books of the Bible are written in different styles, with different audiences in mind and for different purposes.

It also means that we can't read the Bible in a 'literalist' way. In other words, we can't simply read every word in the Bible as literal historical or scientific truth - it was never

meant to be read that way - and if we do try to read it that way, that's when it appears contradictory. It's only when we read the Bible as a whole, and with the guidance of the Church's teaching, that we can start to understand it clearly.

You ask why we Catholics take the "God-is-all-loving" slant while some other religions make God out to be an "all-fearing" God. The basic answer to that is found in the person of Jesus. For us Catholics (and indeed for most Christians) Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of who God is: if we want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. Jesus is the Word of God in human form (the "Word made flesh"), so when we read God's Word in the Bible, we always have to do it through the lens of Jesus Christ. In other words, Jesus is like the benchmark for all our interpretation of the Bible. If we read the Bible in such a way that it doesn't gel with the nature of Jesus, then we've read it wrong.

And the key to all of this is that Jesus' life and ministry showed us a God who is deeply in love with us, a God who is compassionate and forgiving even as he calls us to repent of our sins and live holy lives. *That's* why we Catholics take the "God-is-all-loving" slant when we read the Bible - because that is the kind of God Jesus revealed.

Fr Andrew

Spotlight: Pilgrims of Hope

Name of group: Pilgrims of Hope

Group established: Pilgrims of Hope was formed in 2007 to prepare for World Youth Day 2008

Who's welcome?: Young and Young at Heart (16 +)

When do you meet?: We meet every Friday night at 7.30pm. Our first meeting for 2010 is on 05.02.10

Where do you meet?: St Peter & Pauls Catholic Church, Habana

What happens when you gather?: Each week is something different but we try to cover a number of activities each month including current affairs discussions, catechesis, gospel discussions and service. It's a great atmosphere to share our faith and lives in a happy and safe environment.

Who can we contact for more info:

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Email youth@rok.catholic.net.au to subscribe today!

Pilgrims of Hope



WHAT DO WE GET UP TO?

- **CATECHESIS**

Once a month, one of our local priests provides us with spiritual leadership to help us better understand our faith. This is where we get down to the nitty-gritty and ask those hard questions. We LOVE it.

- **OUTREACH**

Young at heart people have energy and we make the most of it by supporting our community in as many ways as possible.

- **SOCIAL EVENTS**

BBQs, movie nights, bowling, rallies, parties, sporting games, disco nights, races, and dinners...is there any time for anything else?

Young at heart Catholics getting out there and enjoying life

The Pilgrims of Hope was formed in 2007 to prepare for world youth day in Sydney 2008 (WYD08).

The group has continued to grow since WYD08, with many new members joining in the fun and opportunities available by being part of a good old fashioned youth group.

We meet every Friday night and it's a great atmosphere to share our faith and lives in a happy and safe environment.

Come and Join Us

Pilgrims of Hope



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