



Christian Initiation
Australia Network

NETWORK NEWS

Spring 2021

Words from the Chair



Dear Friends,

Welcome to this end-of-winter edition of Network News. Some of us have experienced a sort of winter hibernation from RCIA

due to COVID, while others have had a new springtime. Praise God for his blessings!

What's going on in RCIA these days? A number of dioceses in Australia are producing resources to help in the formation of catechists, in support of Pope Francis's recent establishment of the ministry of lay catechist. For various reasons, RCIA has been in decline in Australia. One way to arrest this is to provide solid formation of catechists who know how to evangelise, are able to discern the movements of the Holy Spirit, and are pastorally sensitive to the needs of those seeking Christ.

Inside this edition of Network News you'll find a report on the recent 'Alive in the Spirit' Conference in which 700+ people participated. The conference was a joint initiative of the Pastoral Ministry Network, CIANetwork, and the Mission Planners Network Oceania, and included a number of fine workshops and talks which may be helpful in your RCIA ministry.

Sharon writes about her experience in using Alpha as a tool for the precatechumenate. I have been part of Alpha programs and have found that it enables enquirers to hear the kerygma in a non

-threatening environment and, if the program is run correctly, it can help to connect them to the parish. Of course, the catechesis aspect of the RCIA follows in the catechumenate where the kerygma heard in the precatechumenate is then unpacked.

Lisa presents a summary of Evangelisation Brisbane's new resource, Going Deeper, which is a 10-session faith formation program for Catholics to explore the meaning of their faith. It promises to be a helpful resource that neophytes could use to continue their journey.

Finally, we are keenly aware that many of our readers are in lockdown across the country and are deprived of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. This is particularly difficult when we are suffering the loss of income, health, and a sense of security. I would like to encourage everyone that we are not deprived of sacramental grace. This is a time to lean into the graces of Baptism, and for those of us we are married, to draw from the graces of our matrimonial bonds. Christ's Paschal Mystery is very much alive and active through these two sacraments.

Let's pray for one another!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Christine Wood

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Christian Initiation Australia Network seeks to support all those who share the vision of the RCIA

www.ciannetwork.net



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Network News is the quarterly bulletin of the Christian Initiation Network Australia.

The Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) is a support network of those who share the vision of the catechumenate. Its purpose is to promote the practice of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) through sharing ideas and challenges.

CIAN Membership is open to all who have a commitment to and/or work with the RCIA in Australia.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of *Network News*.

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The next issue will be circulated in December 2021.

Please send stories to share, news or events to publicise, articles to contribute or resources to recommend by 22nd November, 2021 to the editor, Max Norden, (contact details above) or to the CIAN chair:

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For more RCIA Resources, go to ciannetwork.net/

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