

Jesuit Tertianship/CLC Retreat Project 2019

The successful 25 year collaborative project between the Jesuit Community and CLC continued this year with the First Spiritual Exercises Retreats being offered across Australia from April 29 to May 25, 2019.

A record 344 people registered for the retreats across all states confirming the need for spiritual formation especially in rural and regional areas.

9 Tertians and at least 14 CLCers and other community members delivered the retreat to 9 parishes in every state in Australia.

Last year we were able to offer the retreat in Tasmania for the first time, this year our new retreat frontier was Canberra.

A major development this year was to offer on-line FSE training to CLC and other co-givers in preparation for their retreat role. Thank you to Kay Hooper, Chris Gardiner and all who participated, it was a great effort.

The retreats were co-facilitated in the following areas by the Jesuit priest (completing his tertianship formation), CLC members and a parish volunteer.

Tasmania

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Georgetown, Archdiocese of Hobart.

Tertian: Fr. Trung Pham Co-guide: Belinda Chapman

South Australia

St. Joan of Arc Parish Victor Harbor and Fleurieu District, Archdiocese of Adelaide

Tertian: Fr. Paul Rourke CLC: Peter Laffan

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Northern Lights Parish Kapunda, Archdiocese of Adelaide

Tertian: Fr. Bill Murphy CLC: Paris Huffman

Victoria

St Joseph's Parish Warrnambool, Diocese of Ballarat

Tertian: Fr. Edward Rwimo CLC: Mary Lancaster

St. Mary's Parish of the Lady of Immaculate Conception Bairnsdale, Diocese of Sale

Tertian: Fr. Alvin Ng CLC: Chris Power

NSW

Our Lady of Nativity Church Lawson, Diocese of Parramatta

Tertian: Fr. Meyo Obwanda CLC: Kay Hooper & Di Morrissey

ACT

St. Matthew's & St. Vincent's Parish South Belconnen, Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Tertian: Fr. William Mbugua CLC: Marjorie Morrissey

Queensland

Stella Maris Catholic Parish Maroochydore, Archdiocese of Brisbane

Tertian: Fr. Waldek Los CLC: Ann Hoare & Jan Duque

Western Australia

Baldivis Catholic Parish, Archdiocese of Perth

Tertian: Fr. Rajesh Punchathalackal CLC: Chris & Jenny Gardiner

The Jesuit Tertiaries participated in all facets of Parish life offering masses, reconciliation, trans-cultural yoga, spiritual direction, visiting schools and hospitals, parish groups and often went beyond what was expected. From the feedback received, the tertiaries were a real gift and blessing to the parishes.

Thank you to all who participated especially all of the CLCers who co-guided the retreats, many having to travel long distances, showing amazing commitment. The role of co-guides is vital, as they can assess the ongoing need post retreat for those who want 'more', as well as make a major contribution to the success of the retreat.

What did we learn from the evaluations?

- Enriching experience having a younger priest from the Jesuit order in the parish.
- The tertiarian contributed to the pastoral workload across three parish churches.
- Valuable experience for CLCers to pray the retreat then participate in the FSE training before undertaking the co-guide role.
- Have the training earlier before the parish retreat due to the time commitment.
- Make sure the CLC FSE training is in step with the tertiarian's training regarding number of meetings.
- One tertiarian wrote weekly retreat highlights in the parish newsletter to keep all parish members informed.
- The Parish Priest did a story in the newsletter one month before the retreat, which attracted 60 participants in that parish.
- Sent tutorials/materials to the participants prior to the meetings for their information.
- Forming a parish retreat team works well and if possible delegate tasks like technical assistance, recruitment, marketing. Meet people casually to encourage them to participate.
- CLC in Canberra found a new home in the retreat parish.
- Privilege to 'listen in' to the sharing to witness grace and growth.
- Let the Parish Priest know more about the co-guiding role at the initial contact.
- Participants were diverse - academic and regular people who sometimes struggled with some of the concepts.
- An in-service prior where Ignatian terms are explained and short lectio divina would be helpful.
- Ideally the evaluation should be completed at the last meeting while the tertiarian is still there.
- It was the right time for the retreat near an election and with strong environmental concerns. People united and new friendships were formed.
- Parishes often don't advertise the retreat if it is too close to their own Easter activities, which only leaves a short lead time to find participants

It is heart warming to know that this valuable Ignation formation project is celebrating the 25th year in 2019 and it is considered one of the most successful CLC/Jesuit collaboration projects. It has now been held in all states and territories.

I have attached the history showing retreat locations over that time.

In gratitude to all involved.

Noreen Nicholson

National Co-ordinator

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