



Dear Friends,

In this month's *Mission and Spirituality News* our regular contributors are reflecting on their insights and understanding of St Paul.

I'd like to share with you my joy and excitement about the National E-Conference- Year of St Paul. It has been one of the most challenging and rewarding projects I have ever worked on. Here are a few of my learnings to date:

- I have read and re read and re read the Letters of St Paul for the first time. I'd rather egotistically avoided Paul because I'd heard what he said about women and I just wasn't going there. Now there are words and phrases that simply won't leave me.
- Paul's passion and mission is so clear, dynamic and spirit filled that I have to ask myself have we, as Church, ever really responded fully to his pastoral theology and guidance.
- St Paul, like us, never knew Jesus Christ the person, he only knew The Risen Lord. As such, there is hope for all of us in Paul's story. Our conversions, like his, are unexpected and continuous. Our relationship with God is through his son Jesus Christ who we will never meet in person, and we like Paul are called to participate in an outward-going missionary impulse in our contemporary world.
- In the preparation of the National E-Conference- Year of St Paul I've had the opportunity of working with Diocesan friends across the country. There are so many good people working enthusiastically to connect Catholic folk to this accessible Faith Formation experience. In outback parishes of Geraldton, schools in Alice Springs, secondary school staff on The Gold Coast, mission teams at the Mater and St Vincent Hospitals in Sydney and communities across Tasmania and New Zealand people are eager to 'read from the same page' about Paul on June 30<sup>th</sup>. People want and need excellent formation opportunities.

I invite you all to 'give it a go'. It's very simple; here are the steps.

1. Form a Group
2. Register for free [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)
3. Internet connection
4. Lap Top- Speakers
5. Data Projector
6. Screen

For those people who are reading this newsletter but are unable to connect with a group, you can access the e-conference from your laptop wherever you are on the day. You may also like to contact your Diocesan office and enquire about parish centres who will be hosting it.

I will conclude with a few of those phrases which keep singing in my heart and mind.

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. With Christ I hang upon a cross; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. (Gal 2.19)

You are all sons (and daughters) of God in Christ Jesus. Inasmuch as you have been baptised into Christ, you have put on Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one person in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:26-28)

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy and understanding all mysteries there are and knowing everything and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, it will do me no good whatever.

(1Cor 13:1-4)

Be inspired; take the time to strengthen your faith.

P.S. We'll be joined by Sister Patricia Day who will host a site in Peru. Paul would be thrilled!

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