



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
16 June 2020

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Since my appointment as Bishop of Broken Bay, I have tried to engender a spirit of generosity and enthusiasm for the mission of the Church. I do so, because the community of the Church is an evangeliser, and to evangelise we must be generous and enthusiastic for the Lord.

We begin by being evangelised ourselves. As Pope Saint Paul VI taught, the Church “is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love” (cf *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 15).

To engage faithfully in our mission, we must be led, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to conversion, renewal and reform, so that the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church will be recognised, known, and loved as the living Body of Christ.

Throughout our Diocese of Broken Bay, hundreds of women and men generously and enthusiastically carry out their mission on a weekly basis as catechists. Their participation in this mission is not to be underestimated. These women and men of faith are called and commissioned to be spiritual guides, teachers of the faith, and leaders in the community. They work with the priests and deacons of the Church. Under my episcopal oversight and care, they are engaged in the mission of evangelisation and catechesis – which is first and foremost a work of faith.

This week I would like to acknowledge the marvellous work that our catechists do by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their students in the faith see Christ in them. In many instances, our catechists are the first proclamation of the Good News in their lives of their students. Their support of parents and carers strengthens the family and the community. Others believe and hold to the teachings of Christ because of what our catechists teach by word and deed.

As the public school system reopens to our catechists, I would ask that you keep them in your prayers, especially in this COVID environment. The work of evangelisation and catechesis is one that belongs to every member of the community of the Church. It can be a daunting thought for some, who might not think that they are “qualified” to teach the faith. Our catechists know how to overcome many obstacles to evangelisation. The starting point is not a book; rather it is a living relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the Good News. Accepting him into our lives as Lord and Saviour is the first work of being evangelised.

Thank you to our catechists for leading the way.

Blessings of grace and peace for the week ahead,
+Anthony