



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER 3

The five objects

Do you encourage your members to include in their yearly program some:-

- teaching for their members on the MU five objects
- an outreach activity in their parishes that address one of the five objects

The five objects should be an intentional focus of MU group life. Encourage your members to hold an outreach activity that:-

- supports and promotes marriage or
- encourages parents in their God given role of sharing the faith with their children

I encourage you to look past the familiar stumbling blocks of '*too few young families in church*' and '*aging membership*' and try to discover some way in which your groups can connect in an intentional and meaningful way with the young people and families of your communities.

Prayer

The Mothers' Union web site has a resource titled:-

Exploring the Spirituality of the Mothers' Union – which begins with the words "*Spirituality runs like a river through our organisation – it is like water, it always finds its own shape.*"

What type of river; what shape of spiritual life, do the groups in your Diocese have?

Most, if not all members, when asked, would identify Prayer as a very important and valued aspect of group life. But what style of liturgy, worship and prayer experiences are offered? Is worship time together organised '*on the run*' with very little forward planning and prayer?

The new MU Service Book 'A Worship and Prayer Book' is an excellent resource. How creatively are we offering the time of worship, prayer and liturgy to our members?

I also believe that worship and prayer should lead to action, i.e. our time of worship and prayer together, should involve us "*putting legs on our prayers*" within the community in which we live.

Mother Teresa saw liturgical life as continuous:-

The fruit of silence is *prayer*

The fruit of *prayer* is faith

The fruit of *faith* is love

The fruit of *love* is service

The fruit of *service* is peace.

How best can MU interweave its worship into its work?

As leaders, we have a unique opportunity to help our members grow in their faith journey – there are numerous resources available to help us in our God given task of leadership.

How can MU help the different generations explore and value their Christian beliefs?

How can MU encourage parents to bring up their children in a life of the faith?

The new marriage pack

After several production hick ups, the new marriage pack is now available from the Publication Department. Please order your promotional copies from Elaine and promote this pack around your Diocese.

Marriage Promotional Leaflet

A new marriage promotional leaflet is in the process of being prepared for publication and hopefully this will be ready within the next couple of months. I will keep you posted when it is ready.

Reports

I have to provide a report on the work of the Education Department to the Australian Secretary, to be included in the report book for Australian Council. Could Diocesan Education Department Co-ordinators (or Diocesan Presidents if your Diocese does not have an Education Department Co-ordinator) please send in a brief report from your Diocese for this Department.

PEP

I believe that the MU Parenting Course now has facilitators in each of the Dioceses of Australia. Please promote this program in your Diocese and with your members. Please encourage your members to intentionally and actively recruit parents to take part in the Parenting Course and then pray for and support the facilitators as they present the course.

Elections at AC in 2010

The Australian Council meeting which is set down for October will include elections. The position of Education Department Co-ordinator will be vacant, so I encourage you to prayerfully consider who you might nominate for this position. Please advertise this widely throughout your Diocese and encourage people to pray about who they might ask to nominate.

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