

WITH THE CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In his 1995 Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* ("I Will Give You Shepherds"), Pope Saint John Paul II talks about four areas of priestly formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. Concerning pastoral formation, the saintly pope says that it "cannot be reduced to a mere apprenticeship. The seminary... must seek really and truly to initiate the candidate into the sensitivity of being a shepherd..." (*Pastores Dabo Vobis* 58) In this edition of *Vivere*, we would like to share with you some of our brothers' thoughts and experiences as they take on different pastoral experiences.

CALLED TO BE TEACHERS

I participated once a week for two semesters at an after school catechesis program, one semester at a primary school and currently I am at a secondary college. This experience has shown me the ways people are shaped and formed. Children can display, in an exaggerated way, how adults behave. This has helped me to learn a lot about myself and now I have a new perspective on how people have different ways of learning, reacting, responding and have unique relationships with God. The call to priesthood approaches me in many ways and the students are a big part of that call. They also play a big part in forming me into the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

PAUL ZAHER, DIOCESE OF SALE

BUILT TO BE PARISH PRIESTS

I did six months of pastoral placement last year in St Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne. I had an enriching experience in the parish in many ways, having been involved with different activities in the parish, such as sacramental preparation, visiting the sick and elderly, assisting with the liturgical celebrations etc. Being an overseas seminarian, it provided an opportunity for me to have a closer look at the new culture in which I am called to exercise my priestly ministry in the future. It was a time to learn more about the challenges that lie ahead of me and to gain confidence in answering God's call to the priesthood.

AVINASH GEORGE, DIOCESE OF SALE

LEARNING FROM THE WISDOM OF THE POOR

Throughout 2015, I worked at the soup kitchen of the Missionaries of Charity, Fitzroy. It was a fulfilling task because I was able to put my Christian calling into practical forms. Serving

and listening to my brothers who came there for help created in me a new way of thinking and understanding. I think that our problems are filled with lessons; I was able to learn from the conversations I had with these men. I have learnt that the poor are great people with great wisdom and humility. I pray in turn that God may grant me the humility to live in a loving relationship with Him and my neighbors.

FIDELIS UDOUSORO, ARCHDIOCESE OF HOBART

MISSIONARIES TO A COUNTRY OF HOPE

When Nathan Rawlins and I were told that we were heading to Myanmar for our mission experience, we didn't quite know what to expect. The six-week journey turned out to be more of an immersion trip, as the major focus shifted towards experiencing the culture and the Church in Myanmar, rather than undertaking manual labour. What stood out for me was definitely the people. They were some of the most joyous, hospitable and holy people I've ever met and I felt like I received so much more than I could have ever given. Even though the country is only about 1% Catholic, every church and cathedral that we visited was full. This was a great testament to the universality of the Church and it gave me great encouragement as a seminarian. God-willing, Nathan and I will return one day as priests to offer Mass for the wonderful people of Myanmar who touched our lives so much.

JAMES BAPTIST, ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

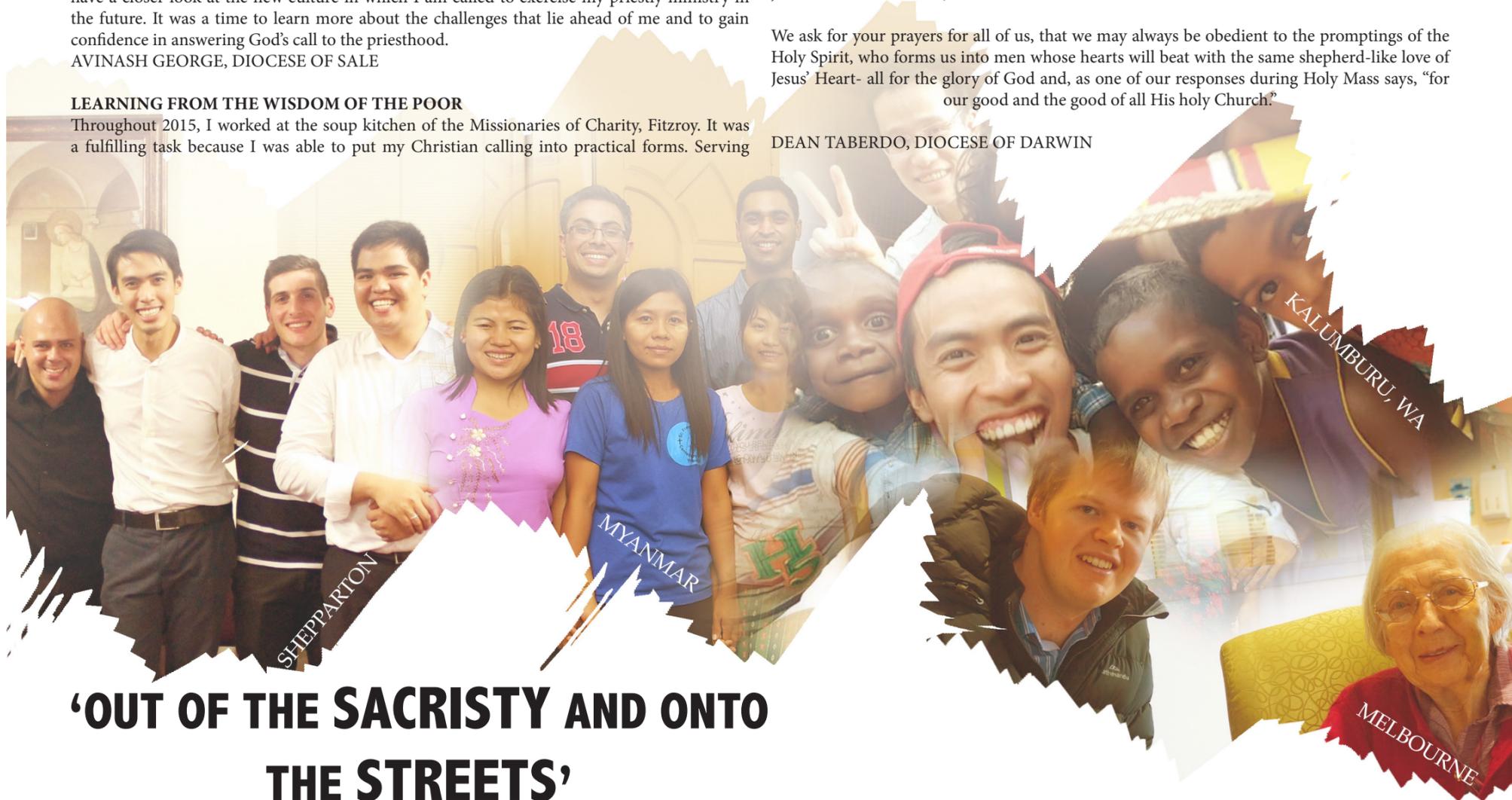
JOY IN SERVICE

I have just had the privilege of completing my pastoral placement at Corpus Christi Aged Care in Clayton. I loved talking with the residents and learning about their lives. Other highlights of the placement included assisting at liturgies, praying with residents and interviewing religious sisters about their lives. When our placement ended, I felt a great sense of joy. Before I left on my last day, I spent the last few minutes in the chapel in front of the Blessed Sacrament, thanking Jesus for the experiences. Admittedly, I was a bit emotional, but the tears I had were ones of happiness. I had been enriched by the placement and the faith of so many I had met. It was also an insight into the ministry of a priest.

JACKSON SAUNDERS, DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

We ask for your prayers for all of us, that we may always be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who forms us into men whose hearts will beat with the same shepherd-like love of Jesus' Heart- all for the glory of God and, as one of our responses during Holy Mass says, "for our good and the good of all His holy Church?"

DEAN TABERDO, DIOCESE OF DARWIN



'OUT OF THE SACRISTY AND ONTO THE STREETS'

Join hundreds of fellow Melbourne Catholics for the annual Corpus Christi College Seminary Eucharistic Procession. Each year, our college celebrates its patronal feast day, the feast of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ), with a procession through the streets of Carlton including Lygon St. This extraordinary and unique event in the life of our college, is a very literal expression of Pope Francis' missionary call; "To get out of the sacristy and onto the streets." The 2016 Corpus Christi procession is not only a beautiful expression of our faith in the Eucharist, but a chance to engage in the life of our college and pray for the needs of our church, our city and the world. Archbishop Julian Porteous of Hobart, has said: "The procession is an opportunity for us to give a public witness to the fact that Christ wants to be with us until the end of time, and the way he has expressed this is by being truly present in the Blessed Eucharist." So bring family and friends, so that together we may pray, witness and journey with Christ.

SAMUEL PEARSON



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