From the President:

Last week (2 September) was the feast of the dedication of St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney. It is probably not something you heard much about. Because it is a local feast (i.e. in the diocesan calendar) it doesn’t get the same attention as say, the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, which is in the universal calendar. Yet, pastorally and theologically, the dedication of a local church is more significant than the dedication of a church outside our territory.

Celebrating this feast might seem to focus our gaze on the building – and there is much that can be said about that building and its beauty. But the building is also a place that, if the walls could speak, tells stories of the lives of thousands of people who have visited it, worshipped in it, celebrated milestones in it, and gathered there with friends and strangers. The liturgical texts do not focus much on the building, but speak of the people who constitute the local church. The cathedral is truly a symbol of all the baptised in this local church. The key biblical text is 1 Peter 2:5, “like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”.

When a church is dedicated the focal point is the altar, which is anointed. The bishop, priests and all the baptised gather around the altar to celebrate the Eucharist. For this reason the cathedral is a place of worship. As a place of worship it is where the baptised – the “holy priesthood” – offer what 1 Peter calls spiritual sacrifices. This idea of offering spiritual sacrifices runs deep in the church’s tradition. It never referred just to gathering around the altar to offer the Eucharist; it also referred to living a life that is marked by the “sacrifice” of mercy and service. John Chrysostom is one of the clearest witnesses to this tradition. He referred to two altars: the altar of stone on which Christ’s Eucharistic body is laid, and the altar of the poor, begging at the door of the church, who are truly the body of Christ (cf. Homily on 2 Corinthians, 20).

The feast of dedication serves as a memorial of God’s mighty works in this local church – in the building, but also across the whole territory of the local church (and CIS is part of that). It can serve as a memorial of the anointing, not just of the altar, but of all the baptised. Because it is a memorial it reminds the whole local church that there is a connection between what happens in the cathedral and what happens in the homes, schools, workplaces and streets of this local church.

Fr Gerard Kelly

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. CISSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .

6:00pm Wednesday 9th September in The Auditorium.

Class will begin at 6:20PM in order to allow students to attend.

The main item on the agenda for the evening will be the election of the council for 2015. In the case where there are less than 7 nominees, the election will take place by secret ballot. Potential nominees need to be both nominated and have their nomination seconded by current financial members of CISSA. Nomination forms are available in the student common room.

Mary Ward Grant 2016

In order to promote the dignity and role of women in church and society, the Mary Ward Grant was established to support specialist or post-graduate study of theology, spirituality and pastoral ministry.

This is a partial grant to assist applicants who have financial need, including those seeking to complete the final year of under-graduate study.

Priority is given to Catholic lay women. Other applications will be given serious consideration. Grants will be offered at the discretion of the Grant Committee. Each application will be treated confidentially on an individual basis, and no discussion on the outcome will be entered into.

Please Check the notice boards for more information

Applications close: Wednesday 7 October 2015.

Offers of grants will be made in December 2015.
A reminder for students that Mass will be celebrated in the chapel
Mondays to Thursdays at 12:40pm.
No Mass on Thursday this week, 10th September.