

My fellow Australians: we have a problem.

"The so-called "great" Churches seem to be dying. This is true particularly in AUSTRALIA, also in Europe, but not so much in the United States." (Pope Benedict XVI, address to the clergy of the Aosta diocese, Italy, 2005)

Why is the Church dying in Australia?

"Secularism and de-Christianization are gaining ground, relativism is growing and the influence of Catholic ethics and morals is in constant decline.... Many people abandon the Church or, if they stay, accept only a part of Catholic teaching, picking and choosing between only certain aspects of Christianity." (Address to the German bishops, WYD, 2005).



Young Catholics consistently drift away from the Church in their thousands. Yes. In their thousands.

Is there a solution for this crisis? Of course there is! Keep reading...

In the Record newspaper, Archdiocese of Perth, WA, Archbishop Barry Hickey referred to

"A particular Catholic secondary school," where "not one boy or girl in Year 12 went to Mass... This floored me... I had no idea how bad the situation had become. The loss of young people to the active life of the Church will have catastrophic long term effects on our Catholic population if we do not address it with energy, wisdom and prayer." (Record, 21.8.03)

Let's face it: we have had decades of poor or no moral teaching in most Catholic schools; a sorely defective Catecheses; a lack of proper formation for parents in many parishes and associations. Of course, there are some honourable exceptions. But they are exceptions.

Whatever excuse one may have to explain away this catastrophe, the hard truth is that generally speaking, a great many of us Catholics no longer pass the Faith on to the next generations as we used to.

How many Catholics grieve as they see their children losing the Faith, their relatives joining anti-Catholic sects, their friends saying that they no longer believe in God? And yet, many of us simply keep on wishing that things will get back on track without effort on our part. This wishful thinking and lack of serious action will get us nowhere - except into a worse state.

But there is good news!

Archbishop Hickey said “We have to admit that the drift away from the Church will continue [unless] **new initiatives** that we have not even thought of yet come from our common consideration of the problems the Church is facing”.

His Grace made it very clear that “Every Catholic has a duty to participate in evangelization for the sake of their friends, family and society”.

What new initiative has started to respond to the challenge?

I have an answer for you: the ‘**New Apologetics By Mail Course**’. For the first time in any language worldwide, you can deepen your love and understanding of the Catholic Faith without going to college or seminary - and all the work is done for you! Every month, you will receive by mail a talk recorded on Audio CD, accompanied by a beautifully illustrated, 4-page study guide.



Here is what Archbishop Hickey said about it:

*“In this time of rapid social change and new scientific discoveries, questions are being asked about the Catholic Faith that **many may not feel confident to answer.**”*

“The ‘New Apologetics by Mail’ will assist Catholics to understand their Faith better, and be able to give rational and convincing replies to the questions being asked. It will also clear up misunderstanding about the Faith and draw us closer to God.”

The material of the Course is based upon the masterpiece, ‘Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine’, by Archbishop Michael Sheehan, updated by Fr. Peter Joseph of the St. John Vianney Seminary in Wagga Wagga and launched by the Archbishop of Sydney, today George Cardinal Pell, at the New South Wales Parliament.

Learn more about the **New Apologetics By Mail Course**: request your Welcome Package by filling out our online coupon, or writing to
PO Box 33, Belfield, NSW, 2191. Or call (02) 9786-4836

I look forward to hearing from you!

God bless,

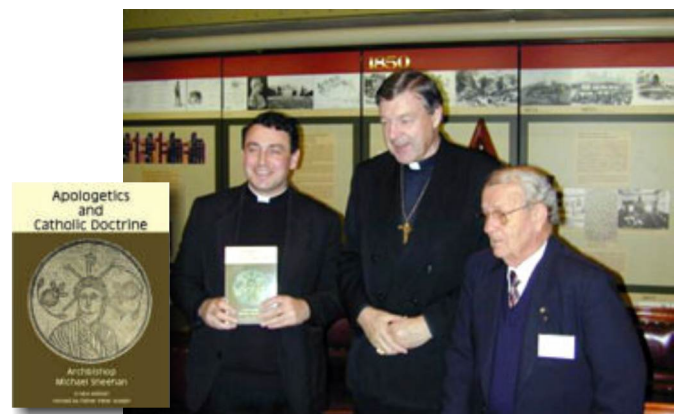
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Fr Peter Joseph, holds the book, with Archbishop Pell and the Hon John Johnson MLC, President of the New South Wales Legislative Council. The book was launched at the historic Jubilee Room of the New South Wales Parliament House.