

## IMPORTANT EVENTS & DATES

(If you can't make these events, please pray about them.)

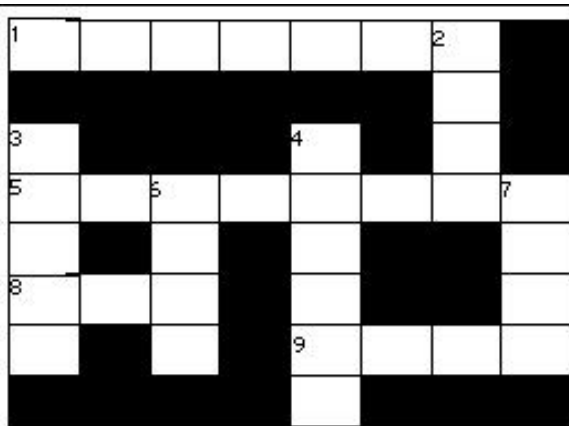
Dec 25 Christmas  
Jan 2-7 Summer Rosies  
Jan 8-11 National Oblate

## IOYE Reunion



The IOYE experience proved that young people through faith can come together and host an amazing event. The IOYE reunion was a good chance to reflect, and catch up with some of the people who made it possible. It was also the sign of completion, the final chapter of a job that had taken over 3 years to prepare. It was celebration time! The weekend was full of bowling, happy sing-a-longs on the bus and beach, beautiful food and drink at the Portsea hotel and Baths, great accommodation at BayPlay Blairgowrie, and a ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliff to finish the weekend. The highlight of the weekend was mass at Sorrento on the Saturday night. The look of the parish's faces as all these young people came to their church to thank them for the support and help they had given to us, it was an uplifting experience. IOYE and the SJV youth has been an important part of my life, I will always cherish it and I am grateful everyday that I was part of such a team.

Adam Colin Jacobson



### Across

- Country where Oblates are active
- Current Pope
- Month in which the OMI founder's feast is.
- What held Christ on the Cross

### Down

- Recently inducted OYA life member
- US President Elect
- Current Season
- Big event in Jan '09
- Generic name for item which drives 9 Across

## FACES of OYA



When Did you first Become involved in OYA?

**Marc:** I became involved in OYA before it even received its name. Initially "Youth Coming Together" I joined the SJV youth group in 2000.

**Patrice:** I first came to OYA sometime around 1999/2000. There was already an existing "new" youth group in the parish, but because I was only 16 or 17 at the time I was not able to attend on a full time basis. The first real experience I had of OYA was the first ever OYA gathering at Dromana in the holidays of 2000.

What do you like most about OYA?

**Marc:** Unlike Facebook or MySpace, OYA is not just a social network. Although building communities and friendships is important, OYA has an emphasis on faith development. I guess that is why I wanted to remain a part of it for so long.

**Patrice:** I must admit what I like most about OYA has been the social aspect of the group and the fact that these people who I am blessed to see are the same as me. We share a common Oblate Charism or flavour and we are interested and proactive in our faith. It's such a nice feeling to fit and belong somewhere and know that it is all God's doing which has brought us all there.

What does it mean to you to be recognised for your hard work and be called a life member?

**Marc:** To be inducted as a life member of OYA is a great honour. As nice as it is to be recognised for my personal contribution I see life membership as recognition of the success of OYA due to the contributions of all of its members. Without all of the members of OYA there would be nothing to organise, no friendships to be formed and no faith to be developed. OYA is a family and I am so proud to have been a small part of such a vibrant organisation.

**Patrice:** The recognition was not why I volunteered my time to OYA and to the IOYE. I volunteered because I believed in it. It just had to work. Hearing the stories which came back from the Oblate experience in Hunfeld, Germany and how the pilgrims from OYA raved about it, I just had to jump on board and ensure that IOYE in Melbourne and then ultimately WYD in Sydney did the exact same thing, only better. To be recognized as a life member is truly an honour. I know that I will continue to be an involved member of OYA wherever it leads me, because for me, it feels like home. This is where I should be and this is what I should be doing. So the term "life member" seems quite apt because my life wouldn't have been the same without OYA.

# envision

OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Greetings from Oblate Youth Central,

Well as the year is drawing to a rapid close it is hard to believe that our three year journey to IOYE and WYD are well and truly over. The IOYE and WYD pilgrimage was an incredible success thanks to the generosity of so many people in our parishes and schools and leading the way was the most inspiring group of young people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. My prayer is, now that it is all over and we have recovered from the excitement and exhaustion, that we might take time to reflect on the incredible experience and recall how we encountered Christ through one another. As we reflect this Christmas on the incarnation, let us be conscious of the presence of Christ in our lives.



There are a few changes happening here at the office, Loretta Brinkman will be leaving the office team at the end of January and taking up a new position as Youth and Young Adult Co-ordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. I would like to thank her for all she has done to put Rosies back on track, supporting OYA and for making IOYE the incredible event it was. We wish her all the best and know that she will remain part of OYA. I received a new 3 year appointment to establish the Oblate Office of Mission. This new office will be a networking and collaboration of existing lay ministries; MAMI, Oblate Family, Oblate Youth Australia, Rosies and Vocations. I am a little daunted but very excited about the challenge. I would also like to congratulate Patrice Costin and Marc Johnson who were inducted, at the IOYE team Reunion, as OYA Life Members by National Co-ordination team for their exceptional service, example, loyalty and dedication to OYA as members of the IOYE committee.

Now we set our sights for National Oblate Youth Encounter 2009. With its theme, "Celebr8 Harvest," the NOYE will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on IOYE and WYD. We will be at a new campsite and the program is looking fantastic, but we still need to register more participants. I look forward to receiving a stack of registration forms in the mail over the next few weeks. Registration forms are available on [www.oblateyouth.com](http://www.oblateyouth.com). You might even think of inviting a friend. I would like to wish you and your family a blessed and holy Christmas.

God bless-

Fr Christian Fini, OMI



"Through the eyes of Christ... we see the world."  
"Through the eyes of Christ... we see the world."

# IOYE & WYD

## Aaron Nash



Nearly six months from IOYE and WYD, these events are still vivid in my memory, as if they happened only yesterday. I imagine that they will stay firmly entrenched there for many years to come. Being a part of such a large gathering was truly a faith-affirming experience but, like many of my friends, I felt a hole in my life when I returned home to Adelaide.

I struggled to figure out what to make of the whole experience. All of a sudden, I was without the wonderful people that I had been surrounded by for the past two weeks. The warm sensation of peace, love and "free hugs" that was omnipresent in Sydney had now been replaced by the regular cynicism of everyday life in an increasingly-secular world. I asked myself whether the world had room for my faith. But I only had to think of my powerful experience at IOYE and WYD to answer this question.



I remember when I was truly struck by the power of this huge event. It was at Pope Benedict's first address at Barangaroo, surrounded by thousands of young people. In his address, Pope Benedict said, "We are all gathered together in our search for God." I remember thinking a lot about this statement. "ALL of us?" I thought. "Even the Pope?" I remember how much it struck me that Pope Benedict had included himself as one of us, searching for God. I thought he would have 'found God' long ago. This thought stuck with me throughout the week of WYD events, and it has been in my mind ever since, reaffirming the purpose of this spiritual journey...because it is a journey, and this was just a small part of that journey.

So now the mission falls to us, as we were constantly reminded throughout the WYD events. We are Jesus' disciples in 2008 and beyond. Our challenge is to ensure that the zeal and enthusiasm that was so apparent among the youth of the Church does not slip away like the last forgotten Australian Idol winner.

The next National Oblate Youth Encounter in January 2009 promises to be an exciting and reinvigorating event. With emotions still running high from July's events, 2009 is expected to be the largest NOYE gathering yet. The leadership team faces the difficult task of putting on an event that will equal the impact of IOYE, but I have no doubt that they are up to the task. It is easy to feel the 'come down' after the high of WYD, but we must stay motivated because the journey is not over yet.

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## summer rosies with emma

In January 2007 I was invited to participate in the Summer Rosies program. I said yes without knowing anything about Rosies or what I was going to be doing, I was just



told that I would like it. However as I was flying down to Melbourne alone I couldn't help but think... "what the hell have I gotten myself into here?" Before we hit the streets we did some training and preparation and once I heard more about what I was doing and what Rosies was all about, I was even more scared and nervous. I would be out on the streets of Melbourne, giving tea, coffee, Milo and cordial to complete strangers. I took comfort in the fact that I make awesome coffees...but was still a little nervous about the conversational part.

I remember my first night out on street like it was yesterday. I LOVED IT! The Rosies team were very supportive, welcoming and friendly and made me feel at ease. The people we were talking to on the street were all friendly and I soon learnt the ins and outs of how they a;; took their coffee, tea, coffee and Milo.

The next night we kicked off Summer Rosies, After introductions, the obligatory 'getting to know you' games and a BBQ dinner we took part in a guided ghost tour of St Mary's Seminary.

For the rest of the week we spent our days playing with kids in the Collingwood Housing Estate and spent our nights out on the street. Every morning when we arrived, there were kids waiting for us, and we made friends with some of the coolest little kids around. We played basketball and cricket, played on the playground equipment, and on one day we even had a water fight, which I'm pretty sure the Rosies team lost! Also making friends with some of the regulars on the street at night and just hanging out with them was fun. I remember one man showing me hundreds of photo's he had taken of train stations around the world and was surprised to see a photo of Campbelltown train station amongst them.

The worst part of Rosies was that it had to end and that I had to say goodbye. I think there were even some tears from a couple of team members when saying goodbye to the kids.

It is so hard to pick a favourite memory of Summer Rosies because I don't think I had a single moment where I wasn't enjoying myself. I definitely got a lot out of my experience and can honestly say I think it's probably the best thing I've ever done. I was able to make new friends as well as strengthen old ones. It made me so much more aware of the fact that a lot of the time we don't choose the kind of life we end up having.... and to appreciate the lifestyle I do have. I got so much out of my Rosies experience and would do it again in a second if given the opportunity.

## Australian Catholics Bishops Conference - Youth Leaders Gathering, Sydney, 2008. Helene Kelly

On the weekend of Nov 21-23, OYA National Coordinators, Helene, Damien, Marc and Ferg, attended the Australian Catholics Bishops Conference in Sydney. This weekend was an opportunity to gather national youth leaders from across Australia to discuss issues in Youth Ministry including the recent experience of World Youth Day.

The weekend involve approximately 400 young people from different parish groups, dioceses, youth movements, and organisations, including clergy from around Australia. We were seated around tables in mixed groupings to help gather information on how youth ministry is conducted in our dioceses, including that at a local and national level.

The weekend provided the opportunity for National representatives to speak on their Youth Ministry and discussed with emphasis why Youth Ministry needs to continue in Australia. This lead to table and organisation discussions on how we as youth could help broadened Youth Ministry into our Catholic Faith, into our parishes and at a diocesan level. We, as youth, gave the Bishops Conference our thoughts for the future on how we would like Youth Ministry to evolve in Australia and gave them strategies on how this would work.

It was a great opportunity to network with other youth around Australia, to deepen our faith and involvement in our own Youth Ministry organisations. It has assisted us with thought and ideas to implement into the National works of OYA.

