

envision

OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2012

Envision Article



In January 2012 Oblate Youth Australia hosted our 12th National Oblate Youth Encounter.

Over the past 12 years participant numbers have varied from the initial 12 people up to 120 in 2007. While there may have been 60 participants at this year's NOYE, lowest numbers in a while, personally I found it one of the most invigorating. When I compare it to other things I do in my role, NOYE isn't a duty but something I love, and find personally renewing.

The camp ran like clockwork and the participants and team were outstanding. It is good for me to reflect on where we have come from and where the years of community building and sharing has taken us.

Looking into the future, it is important to ask the question; what are the goals and challenges for 2012? Without a doubt we need to focus on building and supporting our local communities. A few changes have taken place which I hope will help build and support the local community; the new look and functionality of the Oblate Youth website (oblateyouth.com), and new style scripture and tradition sheets with more electronic resources available. While these things are very important and helpful to our local and National communities, your contribution and participation is still of the up-most importance.

We welcome James Edwards to the team who will take on the role of OYA projects office and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kyle Hoad for his faith, commitment and hard work over three years. We wish him all the best as he begins his teaching career at Notre Dame College, Shepparton.

I hope and pray that each of you can commit to another year of building your local communities. Each of you has an important role of leadership in the community.

God bless

Fr Christian Fini omi



'Changing of the Guard'

This year marked the departure of Kyle Hoad from his role of OYA Project Officer and Website Administrator. Kyle has served the Oblates for the past 3 years and his presence will be dearly missed, not only by the Oblates, but the Victorian OYA community. During his time, Kyle was a leading organiser of many of the big OYA events, such as IOYE 2008, several NOYE events and Re-encounters.

Kyle has recently taken on a secondary teacher role in Shepparton, Victoria. We wish Kyle all the best in his future endeavour and hope to see around at future OYA events.

My names is James Edwards. I will be stepping into the role of Project Officer and Website Administrator for the next 2 years. I have been involved with OYA since 2008, when I attended, and assisted in the planning of IOYE and WYD Sydney. My affiliation with the Oblates stretches longer as I attended Mazenod College, Victoria, finishing in 2007.



I aim to maintain the high level of commitment and dedication that Kyle has set during his time, as well as striving to reach the wider community with the Oblate Mission statement.

I will also strive to reach out to the OYA community as much as possible and offer assistance to in developing and improving local communities.



NOYE 2012

'Created in the Image and Likeness of God'

NOYE 2012, was my second encounter. I remember when I first met the rest of the group on my arrival I was amazed about how many people I knew and called friends.

The theme of this year's encounter was 'Created in the Image and Likeness of God'. Each day this theme was introduced to us in a different light; Jesus as the Image of God, Me as the Image of God and We as the Image of God. Each sub-theme was explained to us with different talks and activities. These activities involved creating clay models of our own image of God, and then placing them in a box with images that symbolise us.

To be part of this community is something surly special, to be surrounded by friends and new faces, all who like myself are seeking answers to questions so long been unanswered. To be able to share my journey of faith and explore it more fully with others while being supported really makes the difference, when others around you can be just as lost and confused.

I would encourage anyone of age to go to encounter even if interest is little to none because the friendships made, stories shared and the experience alone is enough to guide us but also shape us in Gods image and that's before we even mention his name.

Krystal Schultz



WYD PILGRIMAGE 2011

In August 2011, a small group of young people embarked on a life changing pilgrimage to WYD Madrid.

The journey began in Aix En Provence, where we walked the steps of our founder, St Eugene De Mazenod and given some background on the origins of our international Oblate community. During our time in Aix en Provence, we travelled to Marcé, where we celebrated mass on the tomb of St Eugene. This was truly a memorable experience for all.

Our pilgrimage then took us to Lourdes, where we spent several days learning about St Bernadette and got to experience the famous healing baths.

We then crossed the border into Spain, where we spent a night in Avila, before making our way to the IOYE in Malaga. IOYE was a fantastic event that brought so many Oblate communities together for four days of prayer and celebration, as well as preparation for the WYD ahead.

We then joined over 2 million other pilgrims in Madrid for WYD. Our global Catholic community suddenly became so much more real to us as God's presence was felt by all. Some of the highlights from the week were the Australian gathering, where 3,500 Australian pilgrims gathered, the stations of the cross, and of course, the final mass, where millions of people got the opportunity to celebrate mass with Pope Benedict XVI.

We then spent the last few days of our journey in Rome where we experienced the Vatican and the Basilicas of Rome. We also went on a day trip to Subiaco to learn about St Benedict and the legacy he left.

This pilgrimage was a once in lifetime experience that helped us realise God's infinite love and helped us realise the most wonderful aspects of humanity.

James Edwards

Upcoming Events

- Antioch Weekend—Adelaide (June 29th-July 1st)
- Re-encounter (September 7th-9th)
- NOYE 2013—'Leave Nothing Undared' (January 10th-13th, 2013)

FAMILY NEWS

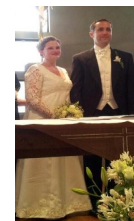
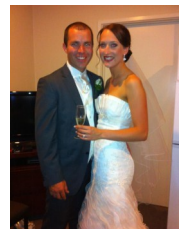
In the past few months there have been some new changes in families in past and present Oblate Youth community.

Luke Ferguson and Christine Freeth were married.



Damien Keady and Alexandra Komar were married

Bernard Costin and Alisha Johnson were married



Leigh Cusack and Frances Holt were married

Ben Crisp and Kate Procter were married



Ed Hudson and Nicole Petrucci were married

