

cernment rather promotes the engagement of the heart. While the outcome for group discussion is a sense of achievement, those engaged in group discernment look for inspiration to guide them to success.

A reading of *Communal Wisdom* also encourages reflection on Scriptural bases for this type of discernment: for example, the gathered disciples, with Mary, awaiting the coming of the Spirit, in *Acts* 1, the imaging of *community as body*—with its many parts as gift to the others, all working in harmony—in *1 Corinthians* 12 and *Ephesians* 4, and the *com-*

*munity as building* in *Ephesians* 2. Jesus himself on a number of occasions urges ‘those who have ears to hear, let them listen’, evoking the distinction between simply hearing words and the art of listening to the message.

*Communal Wisdom* is not a manual, a ‘how to’ book—though strategies and processes are proposed for consideration. *Communal Wisdom* is an inspirational book in the very best sense. *Communal Wisdom* is a book well worth reading—but just as importantly, a book for listening!

—Philip Malone MSC

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## NEW RELIGIOUS BOOKS BY AUSTRALASIAN AUTHORS

### KEVIN MARK

**Church Administration Handbook; Brian Lucas; Peter Slack; William d’Apice; St Pauls; HB \$45 [9781921032653]; 393pp; 250x180mm; 2008**

Comprehensive Australian reference work that provides expert guidance on ecclesiastical law and civil legislation relevant to Church-based organisations. The opening chapters concisely explain the Catholic Church’s meaning, membership and mission. An overview of Canon Law follows. Subsequent chapters cover topics such as various levels of administration in the Church, parish ministry, the administration of temporal goods, managing documentation, and working with others. Authors have extensive experience in church administration and law. Foreword by Philip Wilson, Archbishop of Adelaide and President of ACBC. Reference footnotes; index. Lucas is a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney and General Secretary of the Australia Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). Slack is Parish Priest of St Mary’s Casino, Associate Judicial Vicar of the Regional Tribunal and Director of the Diocese of Lismore Office of the Tribunal. D’Apice is a solicitor practising in Sydney and has been an advisor to the ACBC and

various dioceses and religious congregations.

**The Church and the Bible: Official documents of the Catholic Church; Dennis J. Murphy MSC; St Pauls/Alba House, USA, dist. by St Pauls Australia; HB \$42.95 [9780818912504]; 1144pp; 225x150mm; 2007**

Second edition of a work first published in India in 2000. Collection of ecclesiastical documents regarding the scriptures, from the second century to a statement by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. Includes opening chapters providing background information on the interpretation of such documents and their varying authority, and an historical overview. The texts are presented chronologically, are dated and include brief introductory notes. For this edition the introduction and background section have been extensively revised and 14 documents added, including the full texts of four major documents by the Pontifical Biblical Commission from the period 1983 to 2001. Footnotes; index of scripture texts; index of subject and names; index of Latin names of documents. Author is a graduate of the Gregorian University and the Pontifical Bib-

lical Institute, Rome. On returning to Australia he lectured in biblical studies for 18 years, and was elected Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of Sacred Heart in 1974. He was Assistant General in Rome 1981-93 and now lives in India.

**New Era of Pastoral Leadership: Consolidation and challenge; Martin Dixon; John Garratt Publishing; PB \$24.95 [9781920721763]; 50pp; 235x155mm; 2008**

Volume 1, Number 4 in the *Voices: Quarterly Essays in Religion in Australia* series. Overview of the Imagining Pastoral Leadership (IPL) Project, which had its origins in October 2003 when, on the initiative and at the invitation of the National Council of Priests of Australia (NCP), representatives of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women, the Bishops' Committee for Laity, and Australian Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes, met with the author (representing the NCP) in Canberra to begin a conversation on ways of being church in Australia at this point in history. The essay presents a theology of both God and Church as communion, and examines current realities such the decline in priest numbers and increased education of laity, before discussing new leadership challenges, and the author's reflections on the future. References list. Author is parish priest of St Simon's, Rowville (Melbourne) and is Coordinator of the IPL Project.

**Receive the Power: World Youth Day, Sydney, Australia, 2008; The Catholic Weekly (Sydney), <http://www.catholicweekly.com.au>; HB \$59.95 [9780646504964]; 200pp; 275x300mm; 2008**

Official publication by the World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08) organisers that is a large-format commemorative volume of WYD08 and account of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to

Sydney, which took place July 2008. Illustrated throughout with full-colour photographs. In addition to the photos, captions and introductions to each day's events, it presents the full texts of all the key addresses and homilies, including those of the Pope as well as other religious and community leaders. Preface by Cardinal George Pell; introduction by Bishop Anthony Fisher, WYD08Coordinator.

**Social Justice and the Australian Catholic Bishops; Michael Costigan; John Garratt Publishing; PB \$24.95 [9781920721893]; 60pp; 235x155mm; 2009**

Volume 2, Number 1 in the *Voices: Quarterly Essays in Religion in Australia* series. Account of the (Australian) Bishops Committee for Justice, Development, Ecology and Peace (BCJDEP) during its existence from 1987 to 2005, by its Executive Secretary. Provides a brief introductory overview of the pre-BCJDEP efforts of the Australian bishops regarding social justice, including the annual Social Justice Sunday statements from 1940 to 1960 and those of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) from 1973 to 1987. Deals with the controversial closure of the CCJP and its replacement with the Bishops Committee. A theme of the essay is that the replacement organisations - the BCJDEP and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) - in fact relied on lay cooperation, support and expertise. In addition of the annual Social Justice Statements from 1987 to 2008, Costigan devotes a chapter to each of the major projects the BCJDEP undertook: the Wealth Inquiry (1988-1992), Consultation on Young People and the Future (1994-1998), and Participation of Women in the Catholic Church in Australia (1993-2000), as well as its focus in its final years on ecology. Endnotes; bibliography. Author is now an Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University.

***Kevin Mark manages the Australasian information in the Global Books in Print database and is former religious publisher for HarperCollins Publishers.***