

Catalyst For Renewal Incorporated
2021 Annual Report to Members by the Executive Committee
May 2022

On behalf of your Committee I am pleased to present our report for the 2021 year.

The members of the Executive Committee at the date of this report are:

Bob Birchall	President
Catherine Hammond	Vice-President NSW
John Stuart	Vice-President Vic
Gay Walsh	Secretary
Richard McLachlan	Treasurer
Margaret Goggin	Committee Member
Julie Thorpe	Committee Member
Carmel Vanny	Committee Member

Pauline O'Neil attends our meetings by invitation.

In 2021 the committee met six times. Despite the optimism expressed in our previous report, our activities in 2021 were again greatly disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. To curb outbreaks of the Delta variant, Sydney was locked down from June to October, longer in Victoria. Catalyst held four reflection mornings at Hunters Hill and four at Lawson and a forum with Robert Fitzgerald, which was excellent, was held at Hunters Hill. However face to face activity was ceased with the advent of the lock downs. Few SIP groups were able to meet, those mostly in regional areas of Victoria and NSW. The Paddington SIP group commenced the year online as Spirituality on the Sofa, held two hybrid format meetings in May and June, then reverted to online only for the remainder of the year. A further online forum with Br Ian Cribb SJ was held ahead of the first assembly of the Plenary Council.

Catalyst provided an online log of the Plenary Council's First Assembly activities, with links to commentary. This was well received and will again be offered for the Second Assembly. An additional SOS gathering in November, reviewing the First Assembly and featuring Michael Whelan and Geraldine Doogue, attracted 200 participants.

To support members during the Melbourne and Sydney lock downs, we initiated weekly Catalyst Catch-ups, held online. These were warmly appreciated by members. This gathering became a forum for discernment of the changes being made to our mission statement, the first changes for 26 years.

Whilst the pandemic continues, high vaccination rates in Australia have allowed face to face gatherings to recommence and a full program of activities has been scheduled for 2022. We have welcomed new members and in 2022 will be offering a new program, The Call To Be. Following the transition of Aquinas Academy to an online portal, our new program will continue the delivery of short courses on spirituality previously offered by Aquinas.

Progress has also been made on implementing our strategic plan. A revision of our mission statement was completed, our Members' Handbook has been published and new committees formed dealing with the website and membership.

Despite the ongoing challenges, we were able again in 2021 to report a financial surplus, albeit this time very small. This continues to be largely due to the ongoing support of our donors for whose loyalty we remain truly thankful.

The revision of our mission statement affirms our commitment to life-giving conversation that has the power to bring renewal in our hearts and in our church. In 2022 we are continuing to provide forums where transformative conversation can occur.

Bob Birchall
President
May 2022