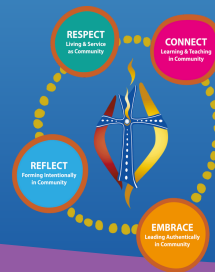


# Family Prayer

## The Great Commissioning

by Maureen Gaul, *Leader Formation: Identity and Outreach*



We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land, seas, skies, and waterways that we go forth from today. We give respect to the Elders who have sustained and strengthened their communities and contributed richly to the knowledge and culture of the nation known as Australia. Together, let unite for justice, healing, and growth, especially during Reconciliation Week.

### Context

Did you hear the recent news of Pope Francis' [1] recognition of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the teenage 'God's influencer' [2], who is anticipated to be the first millennial saint? Born in 1991, Carlo was raised in Milan, Italy and devoted his energies to creating websites for his local parish, Jesuit high school and Pontifical Academy. In addition to evangelising online, Carlo volunteered at his local parish's soup kitchen and supported struggling students with their studies. Sadly, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 15, and the illness claimed his life soon thereafter. His legacy of faith continues though, with two miracles attributed to him so far, and the possibility of an announcement of sainthood during the 2025 Jubilee Year.

It is intriguing to reflect on the gift of grace that is evident in the lives of the faith-filled, as well as the human gifts and qualities that inspire successive generations of Catholics in their faith journeys. The Gospel reading from the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, celebrated on 26 May, gives some insight into the call of the baptised.

### Scripture

#### **Matthew 28:16-20**

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Image from flickr. The Pontifical Mass of Blessed Carol Acutis with The Blessing of The New Shrine. October 12, 2022. Retrieved 26th May 2024. <https://flic.kr/p/2nSNztp>.

## Reflection

The role of evangelisation is not just for those deemed to sainthood, and the scripture reading known as 'The Great Commissioning' from Matthew's gospel exemplifies this. Pope Benedict XVI, wrote 'being Christian...[is an] encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction'[3] , and Pope John Paul II summonsed the baptised to the new evangelisation[4] in a changing world, to 'courageously face a situation which is becoming increasingly diversified and demanding in the context of "globalisation"'[5]. Key to this, is understanding our current reality. This is evident in Scripture writings, like the journey to Emmaus, when Jesus asks his two disciples: 'What things?'[6] following their challenge of not knowing what had been happening in Jerusalem at the time.

While Jesus' legacy of mission can be found in Scripture, Magisterium and Pontifical documents on evangelisation, the facilitation of faith requires new ways and new languages that speak to our modern, diverse generations. The capacity to speak to new ways for evangelisation is dependent upon listening to understand the 'new language/s', as was seen at Pentecost[7] when people 'from every nation' heard the disciples speaking meaningfully to them in ways they understood. Knowing the context and circumstances of the people and the place you are speaking to is critical, as is knowing who you want to take them to, and who they could aspire to be[8].

And while many of us may not attain the status of a Catholic saint, in baptism we have been commissioned to engage the hearts and minds of those who long to hear the message of the Gospel and recognise the presence of Jesus in their lives. Just as the disciples' eyes were opened when Jesus appeared to them along the road to Emmaus, our eyes too must be open to be able to 'speak to our times'[9] in our shared role as evangelisers.

## Prayer

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be,  
world without end.



Kateryna Kuziv's Tempera on gessoes wood. Image from [Sacred Art Meditations](#) website from 'The Parting Gift'. Retrieved 28th May 2024.

## Call to Action

- Consider how your Catholic worldview can impact conversations and actions in your everyday interactions. What gifts do you have to share in faith with others?
- For a refresher on Catholic Social Teachings that underpin principles of justice, peace and human development see [the Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace](#), the [USCCB](#) site or [CAFOD](#).
- [Get active about reconciliation](#) in your home, workplace and social spaces.

## References

- [1]Glatz, Carol.[Pope recognizes miracle needed for church's first 'millennial' saint.](#) (National Catholic Reporter website, May 23, 2024.) Retrieved 24th May 2024.
- [2]Easton, Kaitlin.[Pope Francis clears the way to recognise the first millennial saint, but who is Carlo Acutis?](#) ABC News website, May 24, 2024), Retrieved 24th May 2024.
- [3]Pope Benedict XVI. [Encyclical Letter Deus caritas est](#) [1]25th December 2005.Retrieved 26th May 2024.Copyright © Dicastery for Communication.
- [4]Pope John Paul II. [Apostolic Letter Novo millennio ineunte](#) [40]. 6th January, 2001.Retrieved 26th May 2024.Copyright © Dicastery for Communication.
- [5]Pope John Paul II. [Apostolic Letter Novo millennio ineunte](#) [40]. 2001.
- [6][Luke 24:18-19](#) (NRSVCE)
- [7][Acts 2:1-11](#) (NRSVCE)
- [8] Prof David Hall. Response to Education as Evangelisation in a Synodal Church Today. A Current of Grace International Catholic Schools Conference. 20th May 2024.
- [9] Fr Friedrich Bechina. Education as Evangelisation in a Synodal Church Today. A Current of Grace International Catholic Schools Conference. 20th May 2024.