

From the Editor



Father John Corrigan



Although this is my first issue as editor of *The Priest*, perhaps it is more advisable to recognise this issue as Fr Greg Bellamy's last. Many of the articles, and most of the regular features which appear for the first time in this edition of *The Priest*, are a legacy of Fr Bellamy's work.

In the two years that he was editor, Fr Bellamy canvassed the opinions of many long-time members of the ACCC, and received valuable feedback on how *The Priest* can best serve readers. This precipitated the introduction of several regular features, including:

- **A section on online resources** which points readers to websites, apps and podcasts which can assist in pastoral ministry and/or deepen the life of faith.
- **A section recognising recent priestly ordinations.** This affords readers an opportunity not only to learn about Australia's newest generation of priests, but to pray for each of those priests by name.
- **A section highlighting the content of long-past issues of *The Priest*.** Our archive of journal articles is a proverbial gold mine, and I first volunteered my services as ACCC webmaster to facilitate online access to the archive's treasures. A periodic review of the archive's contents can alert new members to hidden deposits of gold.
- **Comic relief, in the form of *Speck the Altar Boy*.** During my years at Corpus Christi, one of the seminarians was wont to post the occasional *Speck* cartoon on the public notice board. The jokes may have been fifty years old,

but they never failed to draw a laugh. Thanks is owed to Edward Ahern, for graciously granting permission to republish his late mother's work.

It is on the basis of reader feedback that this issue does not include the entirety of papers read at this year's conference. Abridged versions of a selection are published here, while the full texts are freely available online. As www.clergy.asn.au continues to develop, the print journal and the website will become more and more interdependent.

Additional features will become regular in future editions of *The Priest*, depending on reader response.

For many years, *The Priest* featured a regular Question Box column, with answers furnished by 'Thomas Sapientia' — a pen name. The answers were prepared in consultation with a panel of experts. Perhaps the Internet has supplanted the need for such a column, but if questions are sent in, the column may be revived.

Consideration will also be given to a Letters to the Editor section, if letters are forthcoming.

The next issue of *The Priest* is an important one. It will be sent, *gratis*, to every diocesan priest in Australia, in the hope that the ACCC might raise its profile and, ultimately, increase its membership. The issue will focus especially on pastoral

matters, and on the life of the diocesan priest. If you have an idea for a suitable article — even if you think you're not the one to write it — please e-mail the idea to editor@clergy.asn.au.

I am grateful to Fr Greg Bellamy and to Fr Paul-Anthony McGavin for their advice, and I hope I can sustain the high editorial standard they have cultivated. Readers are not only welcome, but also encouraged, to send me their feedback on everything from journal content, to layout and paper stock.

I pray this edition of *The Priest* contributes to the battle of ideas, "drowning evil in an abundance of good."

Speck THE ALTAR BOY

by Margaret Ahern



"Boy! You really let 'em have it Father!"