

Launch Out Letter (LOL)

July 2019



For lack of a better idea, I thought LOL (if you don't know yet, it's the text abbreviation for 'laughing out loud') would be a cool name for our monthly (sort-of) newsletter. Service is at the heart of Launch Out, and it is the joy that we live out loud. Pope Francis prays for the gift of humour, to be able to keep a happy heart. After all, laughter is the glow of a faith-filled soul and humour, as my late grandfather would say, is the plainest sign of intelligence.

Welcome everyone to the first LOL!

The First Trimester

The past three months of my job as Launch Out Manager and Formator have been interesting. Working in the church is an adjustment but it also opened a whole new wonderful world to me, including new friends and a new way of looking at the world and the gifts I bring.

Getting to know each and every one of you is definitely the best thing that this new ministry has brought me. The fortnightly meetings have been for me, inspiring and spiritually uplifting. To see how God works through you, amidst the twist and turns of dealing with the parishes, on top of your responsibilities to family, communities and the dynamics of dealing with your personal journey of becoming.

Updates

- A review of Launch Out was conducted last year by the Office of the Archbishop. In that review, they affirmed the value of Launch Out as an integral ministry of the ADW. Most of the comments were around the Pastoral Projects/Experience. In response to this, I have been consulting with the Project Mentors to tease out ways to improve the way projects are conceptualised, developed and implemented.
- We thank Brian Cummings for a wonderful retreat last 29-30 June. Some of us still feel the joy of those two intimate days of reflection. I sent him your positive feedback and visited him at Pa Marie to personally thank him.
- Telesia will be attending the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) Meeting on 13-14 September. LO is given a slot to attend the APC meetings. It would be a good chance to get to network with the leaders of the parishes and take part in the discussions. Each one of you would have a chance to attend the APC.

Take Note

- 15 September – **PRAYER DAY** with **Mary Kay Jackson**. Mary Kay is a Cenacle sister, some of you will know her. It will be held at the Catholic Centre at the Lecture Room and the Cafeteria; 9:00AM-4:00PM, we are having a shared lunch.
- 23 November – **PASTORAL PROJECT PRESENTATION**, that will be from 8:00AM-5:30PM also at the Catholic Centre Cafeteria.
- ADW is upgrading its website. I would like to put up your profiles on that website, it will also be useful when you are being introduced to the parishes. if you can you send me your **CV plus picture**, I will whip up a brief bio for you. I'll run it past you before I publish it. I'd like to have it by 09 August.

- One of the expectations for us, whether just as Candidates or LPL is our knowledge of the latest Church documents, such as, recent writings by Pope Francis. There are two documents which I think are a must for us in pastoral leadership. You can ‘nibble through it’, don’t rush into it and keep them handy, they’ll be useful in your private and public reflection. I had EG printed with sticky notes all over it. My Gaudate is a bit tidier, crying out for more use. Here are the links to its online copies.
 - [Evangelii Gaudium \(Gospel of Joy\)](#)
 - [Gaudate Et Exsultate \(Call to Holiness\)](#)

You may also want to keep yourself updated with the [Vatican News](#), pin this to your task bar and browse through it every now and then. Locally, I recommend, of course, our own WelCom, the [NZ Catholic News](#) and [Cath News](#).

A Good Pastoral Project

The Pastoral Project/Experience Handbook points to some criteria. Then there’s some expectations I gathered from other people, such as the LPLs, staff in PLM (Pastoral Leadership Ministry) and the Launch Out Review. As part of the revision of the Pastoral Project/Experience, this needs to be more clarified. For now, I have a running list of what I think would make a good project:

- It addresses a genuine need of the parish
- It achieves identified Synod Outcomes
- It uses the gifts of the LO Candidate
- It gives the LO Candidate an experience of working closely with parishioners and parish leadership (Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Leader, Pastoral Councils, etc.).
 - Along the same lines, it demonstrates the leadership of the Candidate to bring people together
- It helps the LO Candidate clarify if being LPL is right for her/him

Thanks to Jude for the suggestion, if you have other ideas about how we can do things better, feel free to say so.

A Year of Listening

While Mely, Patricia, Jude and Theresa are running their projects in the parishes, Lisa and Telesia, who are senior Candidates are on a different mission. This year is a year of listening—to the Spirit as it speaks to the people and their own lives. This year, they step back from the busyness of doing (a project) and immerse themselves to just being a faithful presence among the people, through conversation and in prayer. During the project presentation, they will share with us, what they have ‘heard’.

Share with the Group

If you are reading a book or come upon something that you think would be helpful to us, please email it to me before the 20th of every month and I’ll include it in this letter. It could also be an insight you just had about your project, scripture or a random event that spoke to you. It need not be long, say, 150-200 words. It could be in essay or simple bullet points. This will be a good opportunity to practice, as LPL you will be asked to write a theological reflection in the parish newsletter.

Final Notes

Joan McFetridge sends us funny videos every now and then. This one about a rooster and a line in the sand is one of my favourites. This rooster sort of reminds me of myself—of things that I get fixated and attached to and how I react when they are taken from me, even if they are just silly things, like a line in a sand.



[Don't Erase the Line](#) (click to watch video)



When he had finished eating, he said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch”.

Luke 5: 4