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Keeping Faith with You

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More than 220,000 participated in plenary council first phase

WINDS OF CHANGE

By Mark Bowling

THE Plenary Council 2020 is yielding a “counter cultural” shift in the way Catholics in Australia communicate, with huge numbers among the country’s five million faithful sharing their stories of calling and commitment.

“For many lay people, it is the first time they may feel that the Church is seeking their input on the future of the Catholic Church in Australia,” Brisbane archdiocese’s Plenary Council 2020 co-ordinator Eric Robinson told the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference media blog.

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Stepping out in faith: Teacher Maria Gaudiello with the Three Saints Brisbane Dancers.

Blessings continue to flow from Three Saints

FAITH in God, family tradition and community spirit coloured this year’s Three Saints Brisbane gathering, traditionally held on the first Sunday in May in Lutwyche parish.

An estimated 2000 people attended the May 5 celebration honouring God’s power through the intercession of brothers Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino, martyred for the faith in Sicily, Italy, in 253AD.

Three Saints Brisbane committee representative Carmelina Vitale described the yearly event as a “celebration of faith, Sicilian tradition and Italian culture”.

“It’s a passing on of a tradition to future generations,” she said. “(And) this year we were blessed with amazing sunshine for all to enjoy.”

“Each year, we see a rise of young families who attend, bringing a smile to

our faces, as the tradition is passed from generation to generation.”

Children and youth participated in the Mass and afternoon festivities, alongside the Choir of Saint Alfio and the Brisbane Brass Music Association.

The faithful processed, with the statues of the Three Saints, through local streets, in prayer and solidarity.

During the afternoon, faith and commu-

nity spirit were shared among locals, politicians and leaders of the Italian community.

Months of planning by the Three Saints Committee Brisbane and their families is key to the success of the celebration, raising funds for charity and good works.

Three Saints celebrations are also held in Stanthorpe, in Toowoomba diocese, and Silkwood, south of Innisfail.

– Selina Venier

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