



The Vineyard

Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Australia – Province of Holy Spirit

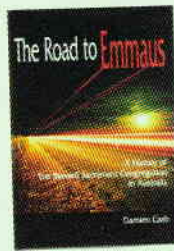
May 2007



Pat Negri



Tom Knowles



THE LAUNCH



Graeme Duro



Damien Cash



Norman Pelletier

None of the guests knew that the caterers moved in just prior to the arrival of the first few on the dot of five thirty, nor that the drinks came to the wrong entrance almost an hour after the agreed time. They were not aware, either, of a disagreement between the organizers of the event about the number of chairs to be set up in the hall. From the very beginning, it seemed, this was to be a night to remember and the guests displayed an ebullient spirit of joyful expectation. Well on 200 people crammed the hall to witness the launch of Damien Cash's *The Road to Emmaus: A History of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation in Australia*. People from all walks of life were there, all of them associated in some way with our Congregation, including Brian O'Donovan who witnessed the very first Blessed Sacrament religious arrive in 1929. He had travelled all the way from Canberra to be at the launch of the book. Every guest could have told a story of their association with us and on that night it would have been positive.

The happy atmosphere evident at the beginning of the event was heightened by the speeches. Our Provincial, Graeme Duro, welcomed the guests and introduced Norman Pelletier with evident enthusiasm. Norman spoke feelingly about the book and clearly indicated he had read it. Damien responded with his usual competence and charm and Tom Knowles filled the role of MC with humorous skill. As one of the committee charged with the role of overseeing the production of the work, I could not have been more pleased. The many difficulties that had confronted us over the years were forgotten, now, in the sight of a book which, with a cover designed by Randall Lindstrom, not only looks splendid but reads with page-turning energy. It will stand, I believe, as one of the most important documents about religious life in twentieth-century Australia. Congratulations are due to all involved. Pat Negri SSS

