

## GEOFFREY DUNN 2008

From 9 to 12 January saw me in Melbourne for the 5th International Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church Conference hosted by our own Centre. Assoc. Prof. Jamie McLaren and I were the moderators of the conference, which was held on the theme of "Poverty and Riches." I presented a paper entitled "The Care of the Poor in Rome and Alaric's Sieges."

From 27 to 31 January I was at the annual Australasian Society for Classical Studies annual conference, hosted by the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Here I represented Pauline Allen at the heads of department meeting, as well as attending the two executive meetings and annual general meeting. I presented a paper entitled "The Political and Literary Careers of Flavius Mallius Theodorus."



On 14 March I was able to represent the Diocese of Cairns at Sant' Anselmo's in Rome for Barry Craig's doctoral defence of his thesis on the eucharistic breaking of bread. The trip also provided me with an opportunity to visit Santo Stefano in Rotondo and the House of Augustus on the Palatine for the first time. I also saw the entrance to the catacomb of Pontianus, in the vicinity of which Innocent I was buried in 417. Together with Barry and Tony Randazzo, I was able also to celebrate the various days of Holy Week at a variety of churches throughout Rome, including the Mass of the Oils in St. Peter's Basilica with Benedict XVI, and culminating in the Easter Vigil at St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls. I was also able to add to my collection of photographs of ancient Rome for the unit on the Roman Republic I was teaching in first semester.

From 22 to 24 May I participated in the annual conference of the North American Patristics Society in Chicago where I joined with Wendy Mayer and Edward Morgan in a panel session devoted to poverty in early Christianity. My paper was entitled "Why Care for the Poor? The Role of Almsgiving in Jerome's Asceticism."

From 31 May to 2 June I attended the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. I presented a paper entitled "The Church of Rome as a Court of Appeal in the Early Fifth Century: The Evidence of Innocent I and the Illyrian Churches." This is part of my ARC fellowship. Pauline Allen and I also presented a report on the Centre's activities. My volume *Cyprian and the Bishops of Rome: Questions of Papal Primacy in the Early Church*, Early Christian Studies 11, was the subject of this year's book discussion, with Pamela Bright, from Concordia University in Montreal being the reviewer.



On 30 September I participated in a day's seminar at the Centre in Brisbane on the various poverty and wealth in early Christianity projects (Australia, Japan, and South Korea). It was great to see Miyako and Kazuhiko Demrua, and Naoki Kamimura from Japan and Wonmo Suh from South Korea. I hosted our international colleagues that evening at my home.



With the absence of Bronwen Neil in the second half of the year due to her Von Humboldt scholarship in Germany, I took over responsibilities as convenor of the fifth annual conference of the Australian early Medieval Association, which met in Brisbane from 1 to 3 October. This year's theme was "Welcoming the Stranger in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages." I thank Professor John O'Gorman, our PVC for Quality and Outreach at ACU for opening the conference. Keynote presentations were made by Wendy Mayer and Anna Silvas (University of New England), both of which I chaired. My paper was entitled "Welcoming Back and Excommunicated Church: Relations between Rome and Antioch in the Early Fifth Century." This paper also is part of my ARC fellowship.