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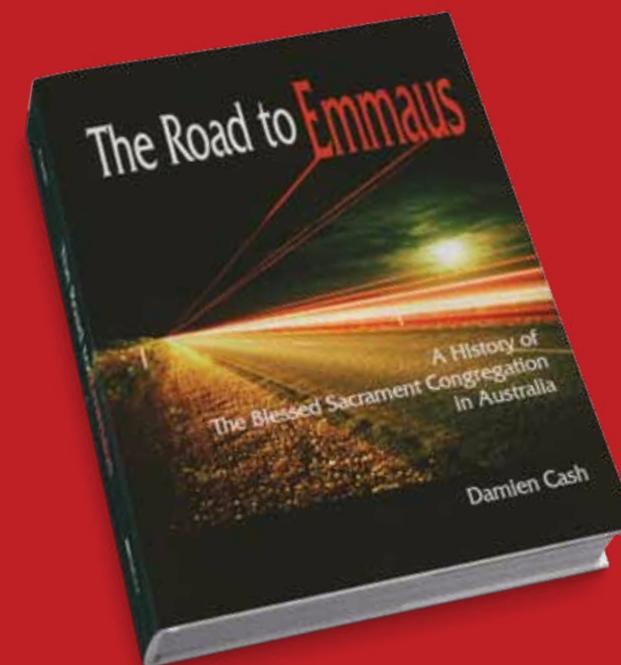
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Damien Cash, *The Road to Emmaus: A History of the Blessed Sacrament
Congregation in Australia*, Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in
association with David Lovell Publishing, ISBN 0 9775574 1 3.

SPECIAL
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The Road to Emmaus

By Damien Cash



'A turning point in the writing
of religious history in Australia ...'

ON ALL SAINTS' DAY IN 1929, five priests and two brothers took over the historic St Francis' Church in the middle of Melbourne, Australia. The men came from Canada and the United States. They were members of the French Catholic religious order known as the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.

The Road to Emmaus is the story of these men and their successors in Australia . . .



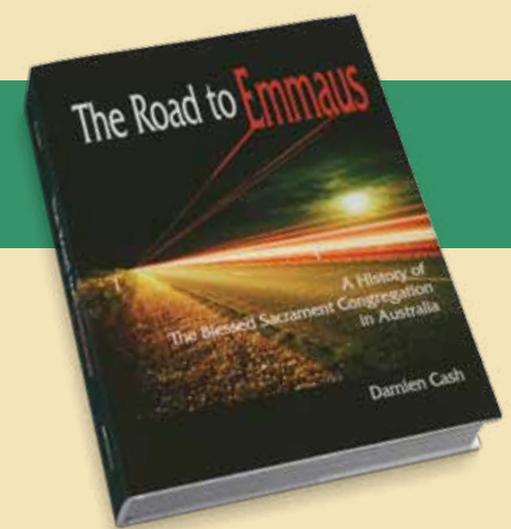
About *The Road to Emmaus*

The publication of *The Road to Emmaus* marks a turning point in the writing of religious history in Australia. This is a serious affirmation, but I make it as such. We have had some first class histories of religious orders in Australia, but this is something more than that.

There is never a single-minded focus upon the presence of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers in Australia. From the first page until the last, the story is set within the religious and political setting of the period . . . starting from St Peter Julian Eymard, the founder of the Congregation, down to the present-day Blessed Sacrament religious, attempting to understand their charism in a complex world, rendered more complex by the Theology of the Eucharist articulated at the Second Vatican Council, no stone of the social or religious phenomenon is left unturned. Moments of great grace, moments of failure . . . it is all recorded here by Damien Cash, commissioned by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to write their story, warts and all.

If anyone is looking for a carefully documented history of the religious culture of Australia in the twentieth century, Cash's book will serve as a sure guide.

The Society of the Blessed Sacrament must be congratulated. This book has been written because Cash has been allowed to do serious research upon their primary



documents. Not only meetings of the whole Province, but the meetings of communities, and the bickering and conflicts that necessarily followed the Second Vatican Council are recorded here because the Society of the Blessed Sacrament has made them available. I am not sure that my own Congregation would have such courage. I hope that – when the time comes – we may follow the lead provided to the researcher who has written this fine book.

I cannot recommend it highly enough. It is a long book . . . but it tells a long story. It is a story that the Society of the Blessed Sacrament has told with an honesty that can only be called 'evangelical'. It is a story in which I find myself. I am sure that many other Australian Christians, Catholic or not, will also find their story.

FRANCIS J. MOLONEY SDB, AM, STD, D PHIL (OXON), FAHA

