

## **KNOWLEDGE & APPLYING IT!**

I well remember my first year of priestly formation attending the academic awards night for the students who were to receive their academic diplomas and degrees. All of the recipients with many of their parents were so excited to be gathered together.

What I particularly remember were the words of the cardinal who before he presented the awards said these words; *"I qualify my congratulations to those here who are to receive these awards. You will hopefully in time be entitled to a greater level of congratulations when with your acquired knowledge you use it well in serving the needs of others."*

Over the years I have often reflected of the importance and the profound wisdom of those rather blunt words! Of course, academic excellence is important in any field of life, but its real value is in how it is practically applied in serving the needs of people. To do this effectively is definitely an art in itself as it means getting to know people where they are at and then being able to deliver a message that they can effectively comprehend. Some of the great doctors of the Church who have done this so well include Saints *Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Sienna, and John Henry Newman.*

Jesus of Nazareth summed up the responsibility of using knowledge well in these words; *"For everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded of them."* (Luke 12 verse 48) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*