

CONVERSION-what I have learnt!

Since 1990 I have often attended an organization simply called *SIP* it's an acronym for *Spirituality in the Pub*, the venue for many years was the Bellevue Hotel at Paddington.

The format is where 2 speakers each with a background in a field such as medicine, law, politics, or religion speak about a topic from one of these or other fields and then are open to questions about their presentation.

One evening one of the presenters was Mr. John Menandue, he had been the Australian ambassador to Japan and while he was in that country, he was strongly influenced by the Marist Fathers. In fact, they influenced him so much that he decided to be received into the Catholic Church. John said this about how he understood his journey into the Church; *"I have not converted from my Methodist Christian heritage at all, this is very much a proud part of my story rather I have now moved more towards being a member of the Catholic Church."*

When he said this, I said to myself that was a wise, wonderful, and valuable insight. So often real conversion in life means that someone simply moves from one level of life to another level rather than renouncing totally where they have actually come from.

Saint Paul clarifies this reality when he wrote, *"be transformed by the renewal of your mind so that you can discern the will of God."* (Romans Chapter 12 verse 2) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*