

NEWS

CRA CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION

A number of CRA submissions were completed this past month—a contribution to the Continental Stage of the Bishops Synod; a report for a Congress of Religious Conferences to be held next week in Rome; a submission to the Federal Government on modern slavery; and two [media releases](#) on other justice issues.

THE WORK OF ANTI-SLAVERY NETWORKS

[Research undertaken](#) by Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and the University of Newcastle has highlighted the vulnerability of migrant workers in the Hunter region. Meanwhile, the efforts of Australian anti-slavery organisations are affirmed in this [statement](#) of Australian Catholic Anti-slavery Network (ACAN) and this [video message](#) from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP.

YOUNG MERCY LINKS

Members of [Young Mercy Links \(YML\)](#) in Adelaide and Melbourne are bucking the trend of peer group preoccupation with their latest Instagram post and instead focussing on how they can improve the world through Mercy values of compassion, justice, hospitality and hope, reports this news item of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia & Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG).

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

For St Vincent de Paul Society, International Volunteer Day is an opportunity to celebrate its members and volunteers to Australian life and society, and to reflect on the deep connection between volunteerism, faith and Catholic Social Teaching, writes National President Claire Victory in a Vinnies [opinion piece](#).

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FOR UKRAINE VISITS CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S PARTNER

The Australian Ambassador for Ukraine recently visited Caritas Australia's partner in Moldova to meet local families who have welcomed Ukrainian refugees. Read the Caritas Australia [media release](#).

REFLECTING ON THE YEAR PAST

Were you able to see things anew in Christ this past year? How have they transformed you and your life lately? This reflection by [Provincial Quyen Vu SJ](#) in the context of the Ignatian Year contains questions of relevance for all our lives. In our joys and our suffering, in the special times and the mundane, may we see the footprints of grace and welcome Christ ever more deeply.

Wishing you and your communities and loved ones the blessings of Christmas.
The CRA Bulletin will return on 7 February 2023.

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2023 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY — SAVE THE DATE

The next Assembly will be held from Monday 31 July to Thursday 3 August 2023 at the Novotel Parramatta.

MEET NATHALIE BECQUART XMCJ IN PERSON — SAVE THE DATE

Next year, on World Day for Consecrated Life, CRA will co-host an in-person event at which Religious will have an opportunity to meet Xaviere Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, Under-Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, who will be visiting Australia for a short time.

Title: An Encounter with Nathalie Becquart XMCJ
Date & Time: Thursday, 2 February 2023, 3.30 – 5.30 pm
Venue: Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney
Registration: Details will be forwarded asap by email and available on the [CRA website](#).

SABBATICAL OPPORTUNITY

This Sabbatical focuses on transitions and is suitable for those at the crossroads of life and ministry. The invitation is to openness, vulnerability and spiritual growth. [Download the brochure](#).

Title: Invitation to Wisdom, Mission, Conversion, Transformation
Dates: 19 February to 2 April 2023
Venue: St Joseph's Baulkham Hills NSW
Registration: Cost: \$8,550.00 Closing date for [applications](#): 17 February 2023

THRESHOLDS OF TRANSFORMATION

To learn more about how your congregation can be a part of a global movement of Women Religious making a world of difference, visit the [Thresholds of Transformation](#) website and come to a Zoom session which will present this opportunity for personal, communal and systemic transformation in more detail.

Title: Thresholds of Transformation - Presentation
Date & Time: Monday 6 March 2022, at 11.00 am AEDT (NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT). Please [click here](#) to view other time Zones.
Registration: [Register free at Humanitix](#)

UISG INTERCULTURALITY WORKSHOP — ONLINE

International Union Superiors Genera (UISG) is offering an Asia & Oceania Workshop online event to develop intercultural competence. The workshop will be run in English and each congregation can nominate up to four participants (see [UISG letter](#) for proposed selection criteria). By the end of the workshop, each congregational team of Sisters in attendance will have developed a plan to offer such workshops to members of their own congregation.

Title: UISG Asia & Oceania Workshop
Dates & Times: 6-11 March 2023, 9.00 am – 12.30 pm (Rome time)
Registration: [Online application](#) is due by 30 December

2023 CONFERENCE: MISSION - ONE HEART MANY VOICES — SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Mission and CRA invite you to [save the date](#) for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference.

Title: *Mission: One Heart Many Voices* (MOHMY)

Dates: Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023

Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney AND online

Registration: Details to follow. In the meantime, visit the [2023 MOHMY Conference website](#)

RESOURCES

STIPEND RATES

Please refer to this [CRA webpage](#) for the latest update of stipend rates, located under *Resources*.

LCWR JOURNAL - WINTER 2023 EDITION

A reminder to [place orders](#) for the Winter 2023 edition, *Fired with Love's Urgent Longings*, the journal of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), by Wednesday 7 December 2022.

THE CARMELITE CENTRE MELBOURNE

Reflections on Scripture for Advent, Carmelite Conversations on the Spiritual Canticle by St John of the Cross, an in-person Christmas gathering, and more, are currently being offered by the Carmelite Centre Melbourne. View their [Advent Newsletter](#), which also contains 2023 information.

LATEST ISSUE OF *BRIDGES* AVAILABLE

Download the December 2022 issue of [Bridges](#), from the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, for an update on recent interreligious events, insights into the lived experience of interfaith relating and resources to assist our efforts.

CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION - BRISBANE

Brisbane Archdiocese has recently launched its [Centre for Evangelisation](#), offering core modules of formation for those considering ministry roles.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF CHRISTMAS



For ten more truly awful Christmas jokes to sing along to, go to the Classic fm [website](#).

Why are Santa's helpers lacking in musical discipline?

They're all 'elf taught.

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? *Santa walking backwards!*

What is Santa's primary language? *North Polish.*

What do reindeer say before they tell a joke?

This one will sleigh you!