

NEWS

MOURNING THE LOSS OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR FRANCIS MORRISEY OMI

It is with sadness that we let you know of the death of Frank Morrisey OMI on 11:40pm, Sydney time, on Saturday, 23 May 2020. Frank was a great friend to Religious Institute Leaders, inspiring creativity and collaboration. We are grateful to him for his intelligence and knowledge but also for his warmth and good humour. May he rest in peace. Read the [attached message from the Holy Father](#).

DE LA SALLE BROTHERS IN CANADA MOURN THE LOSS OF EIGHT BROTHERS TO COVID-19

Tragically, eight De La Salle Brothers from the Francophone Canada District have died due to COVID-19, in Québec between April 16 – May 7. In North America, the De La Salle Brothers are known as Christian Brothers (not to be confused with the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers). Read more on the [Lasallian newsletter](#).

LAUDATO SI' – SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR ACTION PLANS

The *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year runs from 24 May 2020 - 24 May 2021, beginning with *Laudato Si'* Week (16-24 May) and will proceed with several initiatives to which you are invited to join and add your own celebrations within your local communities. [Read more](#) about the multi-year *Laudato Si'* roll-out plan.

NEW VICAR FOR RELIGIOUS IN ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Sr Mel Williams OSU has been appointed as Vicar for Religious for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, read the [announcement](#) from the Archbishop of Brisbane and the [article in the Catholic Leader](#) about Sr Mel who says she sees great hope, not diminishment, going forward.

INTERFAITH NEWS DURING MONTH OF RAMADAN

For the latest news on inter-faith activities at the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and the Vatican's Message for the Month of Ramadan, read the [Bridges eNewsletter](#).

LCWR eNEWSLETTER

Though we may feel powerless in this age of lock down and social distancing, there are many positive initiatives taking place, read the [June 2020 issue of the LCWR newsletter](#) to find out about UISG's series of webinars on 'reimagining the future,' resources created to assist during the pandemic, LCWR's new book: [However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis](#) and other LCWR news.

IS IT NEWS OR PROPAGANDA, AND HOW DO WE KNOW?

Read Sr Joan Chittister's recent article, published on the National Catholic Reporter website, entitled, [Is it news or propaganda, and how do we know?](#)

DANCING AT THE VATICAN - DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Online screenings are available on 12 June and 14 August 2020, of a documentary, “Dancing at the Vatican” which captures the story of a group of sufferers of the very rare, but crippling Huntington’s Disease. The group travelled around the world with their families to raise awareness about the illness in 2017, which culminated in an audience with Pope Francis. Find out [about the documentary](#) and view the [video clip](#) of the group’s meeting with Pope Francis. To register, [download the flyer](#).

NEW NATIONAL REGISTRY TO HELP CHURCHES TRACK COVID-19

A new national registry has been launched to help Churches track cases of COVID-19 in a bid to keep parishioners safe. Catholics across the country have been asked to register their attendance at their local parish via www.massregister.com.au in line with the Federal Government’s 3-step framework that requires every religious gathering to record contact details of people attending. See the [announcement from the Archdiocese of Sydney](#).

EVENTS

OPPORTUNITY FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY - ONLINE

Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) will launch a series of challenging online conversations which will involve women leaders addressing issues in social justice, theology, biblical studies, spirituality, church reform and feminism. [Read the media release](#) for more information.

Session 1: Women and the Plenary Council
Date: Tuesday 9th June 2020
Time: 6pm (AEST: Sydney), 5:30pm (ACST Adelaide/ Darwin) and 4pm (AWST Perth)
Speakers: Clare Condon sgs, former provincial of the Good Samaritan Sisters
Debra Zanella, CEO, Ruah Community Services
Topic: Aspirations for the Plenary Council and how the voices of women and other marginalised groups can be included.
Register: <https://watac.net.au/>

RESOURCES

- [Easter Hope and Pentecost Expectation](#) video on the [CRA resources page](#) is provided with compliments by Emmaus Productions.
- [Experiencing Transitions](#) is Emmaus Productions’ latest video series, featuring Joyce Rupp, internationally acclaimed poet and spiritual guide, in a 10-episodes programme. Click [above](#) for samples.
- Annual Stipend Schedules to be paid to Religious Congregations for the Services of a Congregational Member for the 2020–2021 Financial year can be found on the [CRA resources page](#), click on the Stipend image.