

NEWS

JOINT SUBMISSION – AMENDMENT TO MODERN SLAVERY ACT

CRA is a signatory to a Joint Submission with *Be Slavery Free* and other like-minded organisations to a Senate Inquiry into a proposed Bill to amend the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* to establish the Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner. The Bill is currently before the Senate. CRA's submission supported the Bill, while offering suggestions to strengthen the role of an anti-slavery commissioner. Read the submission [here](#).

SISTERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Sixteen Sisters of Saint Joseph from across the Congregation have celebrated their Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years since their first profession. Continue reading the SOSJ [media release](#).

SISTERS OF MARY QUEEN OF PEACE, CANBERRA, RENEW VOWS

Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace renewed their vows on 2 February during the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord, their feast day, followed by a celebration with the wider community in Canberra. Continue reading at the [CRA News](#) webpage.

RELIGIOUS RECEIVE ECCLESIAL HONOURS

Two Religious have recently been bestowed with ecclesial honours in recognition of their life of service and faith. At St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, Nicholas Harsas FSP was awarded the *Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*. At St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart, Lorraine Groves MSS was honoured with a Guilford Young Medal. [Continue reading](#) *The Catholic Weekly* coverage.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

The Patrician Brothers Australia-Papua New Guinea Province has a new Leadership Team which began its term of office on 1 January 2024: Nicholas Harsas FSP OAM (Province Leader), Peter Ryan FSP, Domenic Xuereb FSP and Thomas Rice FSP.

JESUIT MISSION MARKS ONE YEAR SUPPORTING EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN SYRIA

6 February [marks one year](#) since devastating earthquakes shook Syria and Turkey. In response, Jesuit Mission Australia launched a Syrian Earthquake Response Appeal to provide immediate assistance to those people most affected in Aleppo. Prayers and [donations](#) continue to be welcomed.

PARISHES GIVEN VITAL INFORMATION TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

Profiles of [1230 Catholic parishes](#) across Australia have been published by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research, offering a wealth of insight to assist local communities. View a short [video interview](#).

CARITAS AUSTRALIA CONGRATULATES ITS CHAIR ON AHRC APPOINTMENT

Caritas Australia Chair, Robert Fitzgerald AM, has been appointed as a Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission in the role of Age Discrimination Commissioner, commencing April 2024. Continue reading the Caritas [media release](#).

PENTECOST PROJECT 2024

With the support of the Hilton Foundation, the Dicastery for Communication is initiating a project to build a dynamic global network of Sisters' voices in the Vatican media, while at the same time demonstrating how Sisters are contributing to the Church's work. Learn more about the [Pentecost Project](#).

FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

Fr Solomon Patrick Zaku, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies Nigeria, is calling for prayers and support amid the Christmas Eve attack that claimed over 200 lives and saw 37 villages razed to the ground, leaving many people homeless. Continue reading at the [Catholic Mission](#) website.

MERCY FOUNDATION'S SOCIAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM IS OPEN

The Mercy Foundation is now accepting applications for its Social Justice Small Grants Program. Grants up to \$10,000 are available for initiatives addressing social justice issues in communities across Australia. Applications regarding First Nations Peoples will be prioritised. Applications are due by midnight on 11 March. Find out more [here](#) or visit mercyfoundation.com.au or call the Mercy Foundation, 02 9911 7390.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Missionary Sisters of Service [Highways and Byways](#) Small Grants Program is open for applications. Each year it offers small grants to community organisations to address disadvantage and inequality, especially in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. The 2024 theme is 'Valuing Community Connections in an Ancient Land'. Applications close 5.00 pm AEDT Friday 15 March 2024.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – 8 MARCH 2024

International Women's Day is marked on 8 March 2024 with a theme [#InspireInclusion](#). The theme adopted by U.N. Women is "[Count Her In: Invest In Women. Accelerate Progress](#)".

CRA REQUEST FOR PHOTOS OF RELIGIOUS

The CRA Secretariat welcomes photographs depicting the life and mission of Catholic Religious in Australia over the past year, suitable for use in the forthcoming CRA Annual Report. Photos might show Religious in ministerial, liturgical or social contexts, individual or group shots, special events or everyday life, recipients of awards, etc. Please send (JPG, 500 KB or larger preferred) to: ppo@catholicreligious.org.au

EVENTS/WEBINARS

2024 CRA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – DATE CLAIMER

Registrations and accommodation bookings will open shortly:

Dates: Monday 26 August to Wednesday 28 August 2024

Venue: Royal on the Park, 152 Alice St, Brisbane

2024 CRA HEALTH AND WELLBEING SEMINAR

The CRA Health and Wellbeing Committee have engaged diabetes educators and a dietician to present a one-day seminar in April. Topics include: Unravelling the Intricacies of Diabetes Pathology; Navigating the Plate for Diabetes Wellness; Understanding the impact of language in diabetes care; Lived Experience of Diabetes; and Options in Managing Diabetes. Further details are at the [CRA Resources](#) webpage.

Title: Understanding Diabetes
Presenters: Wendy Bryant and Penny Morris, Clinical Nurse Educators, Lara Mathers Dietician and Gabrielle Riches; interspersed with table talk and Q&A
Date & Time: Wednesday 17 April 2024, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm
Venue: Peter Cosgrove Centre, ACU, 8 Napier Street, North Sydney
Registration: \$160 Member, \$180 non-Member. [Register online](#) Registrations close 5 April
Enquiries: Gillian Lee | P: 02 9557 2695 | E: secretariat@catholicreligious.org.au

CRA ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES - MARY PAT GARVIN RSM

The CRA Initial Formation Committee have invited Mary Pat Garvin RSM to prepare an online seminar series for 2024 for formators and formation team members.

Title: Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace
Dates: **Tuesday 18 June 2024** - optional introductory session; then 4 monthly sessions:
Tuesday 25 June - Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics I
Wednesday 17 July - Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics II
Tuesday 13 August – Intergenerational Living: From Generation to Generation
Tuesday 17 September – Strengthening Skills for Accompaniment
Time: 9.30 am QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS | 9.00 am SA | 7:30 am WA
Mode: Online via Zoom | 2.5 hours for each Seminar
Audience: Formators and those involved in formation of religious (not those being formed)
Registration: Will open soon, brochure to follow
Enquiries: Stephen Middleton | P: 0401 050 595 | E: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

CATALYST FOR RENEWAL FORUM: REFLECTION MORNINGS AT LAWSON NSW

Here is the first in a series of monthly Reflection Mornings hosted by Catalyst For Renewal, Lawson.

Title: The Way of the Cross - An Ending, a Beginning
Speaker: Barry Donaghue CFC, DMin
Date: 16 March 2024, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue: Santa Maria Hall, Lawson Catholic Church (Blue Mountains NSW)
Registration: Entry by donation.
Enquiries: Refer to [flyer](#) for details or email thankyou4151@bigpond.com

SEMINAR FOR JOURNALISTS COVERING RELIGION (UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CROCE)

This week-long seminar, designed by the School of Church Communications at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross is for working journalists who cover religion. It combines conference sessions, on-site visits and personal encounters with curial officials and veteran Vatican correspondents. The goal is to provide a lay of the land at the Vatican plus in-depth analysis of specific hot-button issues facing the Church today.

Title: The Church Up Close: Covering Catholicism in the Age of Francis
Dates: 9 – 14 September 2024
Venue: Rome
Registration: Applications open 8 February 2024. Scholarships available; English required. All information regarding the provisional program is [available here](#).

RESOURCES

LENTEN CALENDAR - LAUDATO SI'

The Laudato Si' movement offers a [Lent Calendar](#) prepared by its Eco Conversion: a combination of Gospel reflections and regional calls to action, linking the contemplative spirit of Lent with the need for ecological conversion through repentance, reflection and reconciliation.

LENTEN RESOURCES

See: *Lent and Easter with Pope Francis* ([Pauline Books & Media](#)); various Lenten titles from [St Pauls Publications](#); and a range of spirituality opportunities from the [Carmelite Centre Melbourne](#).

WATER ADVOCACY – ISMAPNG NEWSLETTER

The members of the [ISMAPNG Water Advocacy Taskforce](#) invite us to explore some issues concerning our oceans and river systems in Australia and the Pacific region.

NEW PODCAST SERIES – MAJELLAN MEDIA

In a year that has been dedicated to prayer by Pope Francis, Majellan Media has launched a new podcast series titled [Prayer is Life](#) featuring Redemptorist priest Father David Hore CSsR.

BEING WITH GOD IN NATURE – NEWSLETTER

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia shares the first edition of [Being with God in Nature](#), its quarterly newsletter.

THE LIGHTER SIDE 😊 [Find the grammar bloopers!!]

