

NEWS

CICLSAL COMMENDS CRA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CRA received a letter from CICLSAL commending CRA's 2020 Annual Report and acknowledging the importance of "being a prophetic voice of religious life." Jose Rodriguez Carballo OFM says in the letter that CRA's view of reality through the lens of the Gospel message gives religious a perspective of compassion and hope, very much in tune with Pope Francis' message." Read the [full letter here](#).

HOW MANY RELIGIOUS IN AUSTRALIA OVER THE LAST TWO CENTURIES?

We have been contacted for a very approximate number of religious brothers and sisters in Australia over the last two centuries - a 'guesstimate'.

Archbishop Fisher OP recently celebrated the Mass for deceased priests and religious for the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Frs Therry and Connolly. In preparing for the homily, he found that he had access to the statistics of priests who had worked in Australia, but not for religious brothers and sisters, so he wanted to gather that information for future such Masses.

If you are aware of anyone who has undertaken any work in this area, or may be able to point us in a direction to find out any estimates, please let Kaylie know via email: ea@catholicreligious.org.au by the end of November 2020. You may also be able to send us a 'guesstimate' for your religious institute.

TOWARDS MERCY MINISTRY COMPANIONS

ISM PNG recently held a 'Ministry of Governance Week' during which the work by the Institute in forming a new Ministerial PJP was shared with ministries and sisters. The new PJP will be called Mercy Ministry Companions. Following the event, the Institute PJP Transition Group published a newsletter about some of its work to date, you can [read the newsletter here](#).

ACRATH NEWSLETTER

Read the November [ACRATH Newsletter](#) and find out about the organisation's latest initiatives such as an advocacy trip to Canberra; recruitment of a new forced marriage worker; news about how the fashion industry has been COVID scrutinised in the new Ethical Fashion Guide and much more.

VINNIES LAUNCHES 2020 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has said that the Government's reduction of the Coronavirus supplement, in addition to job losses, business closures and reduced working hours will plunge many people into poverty. You can donate to the [2020 Vinnies Christmas Appeal](#) online or call: 13 18 12.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL TO SUPPORT ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

[Opening The Doors Foundation](#), which has been led by the diverse voices of the Aboriginal community, will be selling authentic Aboriginal Christmas ornaments to raise funds which go directly to supporting educational costs for Aboriginal students. View the [Christmas ornaments](#) and download the [order form](#).

200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION CELEBRATION

There was a 'soft' launch of the 200 years of Catholic education at the recent NCEC Virtual Symposium. The [official website](#) provides a timeline of activities for 2021 and a [resources](#) page with ideas on how to get involved with the celebrations.

VALE PAULINE SMITH RSM

Pauline Smith RSM died on 7 November 2020. Pauline was a Canon Lawyer, who was well known and respected across many congregations and the wider church. Please [read a short obituary here](#).

NEW INITIATIVE FROM AUSTRALIA POST FOR NAIDOC WEEK (8 - 15 Nov 2020)

You can now include Traditional Indigenous Place names when addressing mail, [learn how here](#).

NEW CRA WEBPAGES: JUSTICE NEWS

We have a new [Justice News](#) webpage currently featuring articles with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, written by our new Justice Research Officer, Emma Carolan. The articles cover COVID-19, the 2020 National Budget; Closing the Gap; and Incarceration, Policing and Family Violence. There is a good news story on how indigenous communities have kept their communities safe from COVID-19 and an article on the Catechesis of Pope Francis on the Global Pandemic. Please visit the page and feel free to republish, acknowledging CRA.

NEW CRA COMMITTEE

The newly established CRA Ecology Alliance Committee met on 10 November 2020 for the first time. It was a positive and fruitful meeting and members are full of hope and anticipation of what they might be able to achieve together in bringing to life the teachings of *Laudato Si'* in our own consciousness, homes, communities and workplaces. For more information, contact CRA's Committees and Projects Coordinator, Carmel Warnock by email: cpc@catholicreligious.org.au

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RELIGIOUS MINISTRY, WEST OF ROCKHAMPTON

The Bishop of Rockhampton is seeking religious who may be able to assist in ministry in the western region of Rockhampton. Please read the letter here and contact: bishop@rok.catholic.net.au.

CATHEDRAL SACRISTAN, BRISBANE

St Stephen's Cathedral in The Archdiocese of Brisbane is currently seeking to appoint a new Cathedral Sacristan. Read the [position description here](#). Applications close 4 December 2020.

PROJECT OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS, MELBOURNE

The Australian Young Christian Students movement is affiliated with the Catholic Church. They are seeking a Project Officer, to be based in Melbourne. Read the [position description here](#); applications close 23 November and further information can be found through [CathNews](#).

EVENTS/WEBINARS

NEW CRA NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Download and share the [CRA 2021 Events Calendar](#), also available on the [CRA Resources page](#).

ACRATH WEBINAR

Topic: Looking into Australia's Slavery Past
Date: 2 December
Time: 1:00-2:00pm
Register: [online registration](#)

This webinar will be held as part of the UN's 16-Days campaign against gender-based violence.

ACRATH PRAYER AND REFLECTION GATHERING via ZOOM

Topic: Bring light and hope into the darkness of human trafficking
Date: 10 December 2020 (Human Rights Day)
Time: 1:00 - 1:30pm
Register: [online registration](#)

This event will end the 16-Days campaign against gender-based violence.

ACRATH: CALLING ALL TEACHERS ENGAGED IN CURRICULUM PLANNING FOR 2021

Topic: ACRATH will introduce various resources including the *Modern Slavery: A Teaching Kit for Senior Secondary Students*, offering opportunities for secondary school teachers engaged in 2021 curriculum development
Date: Monday 23rd November 2020
Time: 4.30pm (Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time)
Registration: [online registration](#)

If you have schools, please share this information with them.

UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL'S WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: Family Homelessness and People - Sustainable Development Goals
Date: Friday, 20 November 2020
Time: 9.00am EST (USA)
Flyer: [Download the flyer](#)
Register: [online registration](#)

2020 JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE - ONLINE

Topic: A Splendid Secret: 'Fratelli Tutti' and the Transformation of Relationships.
Date: Tuesday 24 November 2020
Time: 7.00pm 2020 AEDT
Speakers: Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ
Flyer: [Download the flyer](#)
Registration: email: spirit@graciousgenerosity.com.au
Presented by: Byways and Highways (A Community of Service)

THEOLOGICAL STUDY IN 2021 - ENROLMENTS OPEN

[Yarra Theological Union](#), a Catholic College of the University of Divinity in Melbourne is taking enrolments for study in 2021, including online options. You can make an appointment with the Dean by email: dean@ytu.edu.au or administration by email: admin@ytu.edu.au.

RESOURCES

VIDEO AND MUSIC RESOURCES FOR ADVENT

In a spirit of solidarity during this year of uncertainty and unrest, Emmaus Productions offer you this complimentary [Advent Resource](#), which features video reflections and meditations from: Joyce Rupp OSM, Ron Rolheiser OMI, Daniel O'Leary, Margaret Silf, Michael Whelan SM, Edwina Gateley, Denis Edwards, Noel Davis, Richard Leonard SJ, Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave. Also available via the [CRA Resources page](#).

Emmaus is also delighted to make available in this resource kit a selection of Monica Brown's music for adults and children. There also 10 videos and 12 songs and mantras for children included in this kit.

RESOURCES FOR LEADERS

[The Resource Center for Religious Institutes](#) (RCRI) in USA is an organisation created to serve the needs of Catholic communities of religious women and men; they offer publications, webinars and products.

LAUGHTER THERAPY



HOW DO COURT RECORDERS KEEP STRAIGHT FACES????

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying quiet while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral...

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law.