

## NEWS

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### **2 FEBRUARY - WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

It is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and was chosen by Pope John Paul II for the World Day for Consecrated Life because it reflects how consecrated people offer their whole lives and selves to God - in the same way as Mary presented Jesus in total service of God.

Our members, members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, are many and varied - we have people from many different backgrounds and cultures, some from small institutes and others from large, some congregations were founded in Australia and others in places around the world, some in institutes are moving towards completion and others are growing with new life, some are possibly feeling tired and worn down, and others may be uplifted, cognisant of the service they have given in Jesus' name. Our members have varying theological leanings, different ministries but all charisms are brought together and united in the broad family of religious sisters and brothers.

We honour each of you, as committed members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. You continue to be, through your own distinct charisms, contemplative and prophetic voices within Australia. We honour you for your steadfastness in the face of challenge, your compassion and for your witness to Christ in the lives of others. May you feel particularly treasured today on World Day for Consecrated Life. Please see the [CRA's tribute](#) to you and the [webpage with resources](#) for the day.

If you celebrate the day in some way, CRA would be grateful for any photos or reflections you may wish to share; please send them to [comms@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:comms@catholicreligious.org.au)

### **8 FEBRUARY - ONLINE PRAYER MARATHON AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Pope Francis has declared the feast of St Josephine Bakhita on February 8, the *International Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking*. Join ACRATH and mark this day by sharing information, joining the world community in prayer and committing to do something in your own life to end slavery. [Join the online Marathon of Prayer](#); Bakhita Day resources and Talitha Kum [material here](#).

### **MERCY FOUNDATION SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS OPEN**

Grants up to \$10,000 are available to community organisations working to address social justice issues. Each year, the Mercy Foundation follow the focus of the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement. The focus for 2021 is Mental Health in Australia. Applications are due in by 29 March 2021. Applications for projects addressing other areas of disadvantage in Australia will also be considered.

Please read the [criteria](#) and complete the [application form](#) or visit [www.mercyfoundation.com.au](http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au) for more information.

### **GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT – INVITATION TO WRITE A SPECIAL COLUMN**

Sisters are invited to write for Global Sisters Report on the impact of COVID-19 on religious life – what learnings have emerged in areas such as community, prayer, ministry, health or finances, or other? You may choose to focus on one area or many. The length of the article should be: 900 - 1200 words and is due on 26 February. Please include appropriate photos and the caption and credit information for them. We will need a headshot photo and brief bio of the writer. Your article or any queries can be emailed to the following: [gdegeorge@ncronline.org](mailto:gdegeorge@ncronline.org); (copy in the following: [mmorek@ncronline.org](mailto:mmorek@ncronline.org); and [jmeyer7394@gmail.com](mailto:jmeyer7394@gmail.com)).

Global Sisters Report will start publishing the columns on 8 March, pegged to the March 10 declaration of WHO of the coronavirus pandemic. They wish to reflect the experience of women religious, as this is the focus and primary readership of Global Sisters Report.

### **CATHOLICCARE'S WORK WITH THE AGED**

Practical help and emotional support in the home are vital to people's physical health and well-being as they age. Staff at CatholicCare Sydney's Seniors' services are passionate about ensuring people continue living independently in their homes for as long as possible. [Find out more about CatholicCare's work.](#)

### **POPE COMMITS VATICAN TO NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2050**

In addition to reducing net emissions to zero by 2050, Pope Francis has committed the Vatican to intensifying environmental management efforts and furthering the rational use of natural resources such as water and planting more trees. [Read about it](#) on *Reuters*.

### **HOW BIDEN'S CATHOLIC FAITH WILL SHAPE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH POPE FRANCIS AND U.S. BISHOPS**

An interview with Massimo Faggioli about what to expect from the second Catholic president of the USA; [read it here](#) on *America-The Jesuit Review*.

### **POPE BACKING NEW MOVEMENT TO REDEFINE CAPITALISM AS A FORCE FOR GOOD**

More than any previous Pope, Francis has been lobbied by CEOs to soften his scepticism about capitalism, and he in turn has pressed them to better serve the poor and the planet. Now [a new global alliance](#), with Pope Francis as its moral leader, is pushing to rescue the core of capitalism and reorient it as a force for social good. [Read about it](#) on *Quartz at Work* or [here](#) at *America-The Jesuit Review*.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO NEW BOOK ON SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

You are invited to contribute an article to a new book on spirituality and religious life which will consist of articles from members of different religious communities. Articles would be 1,000 - 2,000 words based on your religious life experiences, projects, ministry, travel, work that you have been involved in. It could be a poem, song, piece of Scripture, spiritual reflections in the areas of Theology, Spirituality and the Church which are of most interest to you, explaining why. The book will be of interest to those researching vocation, friends and family of the contributors and those interested in Spirituality and Religious Life stories. Provisional submission deadline is 1 March 2021 and final submission deadline is 1 May 2021. Joanne McFall, the coordinator of the project, is a teacher, writer and artist with a collection of short stories due to be published shortly. You can contact her by email: [joanne.mcfall705@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.mcfall705@gmail.com).

## RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### **PALMS AUSTRALIA SEEKS MISSION RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE**

Palms Australia assists communities abroad with professional skill development by matching Australian professionals with a dedicated local counterpart. 2021 marks the 60th year of the Palms program. They are currently seeking to recruit Australians in low-income communities – please [read the position description](#). Please see the [Assignments Abroad webpage](#) which provides background to positions currently available. To find out more, please enquire online at [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au) or call Palms on 02 9560 5333.

### **HOUSE OF WELCOME SEEKS HANDYPERSON VOLUNTEER**

House of Welcome is based in Granville NSW and is affiliated with St Francis Social Services. Their program deals with providing supports to Asylum Seeker Clients within Sydney, including housing, financial assistance, food bank and case work services. The Housing Program is looking for a Handyman Volunteer – please read the [position description](#). For enquiries, please contact the Housing Coordinator directly by email: [m.sneddon@houseofwelcome.com.au](mailto:m.sneddon@houseofwelcome.com.au).

## EVENTS/WEBINARS

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### **SECOND MEETING OF ‘THE GIFT OF FIDELITY - THE JOY OF PERSEVERANCE’**

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021

‘The gift of fidelity, the joy of perseverance’ was streamed on 10 December 2020 and is available on the [YouTube channel](#) (with English translator). This second meeting on 18 February is intended exclusively for Major Superiors and Procurators who have questions or doubts of a pastoral and/or juridical nature on the topic of fidelity and abandonment. Questions should be emailed: [vati3487@religiosi.va](mailto:vati3487@religiosi.va) indicating the name of the Institute and your role. Links will be sent for the meeting to those who email.

### **CRA FORMATORS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY – BY ZOOM**

Date: Saturday 20 February 2021

Time: 3.00pm AEDT / 2.00pm AEST / 12.00pm (noon) AWST

Enquiries: contact Carmel at CRA by email [cpc@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:cpc@catholicreligious.org.au) for a Zoom link

### **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN THE LAW OF CONSECRATED LIFE - ONLINE**

Date: Friday 26 February 2021

Presented by: Catholic University of Leuven, Faculty of Canon Law

Registration: [Click on the flyer](#) for the programme and registration

### **CRA CANON LAW FOR LEADERSHIP COURSE – YEAR 3**

The date has changed to 20 – 23 September 2021. Please see the [CRA website](#) for details.

### **CRA NATIONAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING SEMINAR: "DEMENTIA CARE"**

Date: Wednesday 21 April 2021  
Location: Northgate, QLD  
Registration: For more information, a flyer and to register, [click here](#).

### **CRA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & NETWORKING FOR ADMINISTRATORS: "LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE"**

Date: Monday 3 May 2021  
Location: North Sydney, NSW  
Registration: For more information, a flyer and to register, [click here](#).

### **CALLED TO NEW HORIZONS – BY ZOOM**

The National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD) in Canada is holding its conference online for the first time, making it possible for people all over the world to attend. There will be three keynote speakers and nine workshops geared to be helpful to all persons who are passionate about fostering a culture of vocation. The majority of the conference will be recorded, and the presentations will be available to those registered, in order to ease the issue of time zone implications.

Date: 26-28 April 2021  
Speakers: Dr. Rick Gaillardetz of Boston College; Sr Margo Ritchie CSJ of London, Ontario; Fr. Daniel Horan OFM of Chicago  
Flyers: [NAVFD Conference](#) and [NAVFD Newsletter](#)  
Registration: visit <http://navfd.info>

### **CHARISM & CREATIVITY CONFERENCE – ROME 2021**

The Charism & Creativity conference, to be held in Rome, from 30 September - 1 October 2021, is a joint initiative of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and the Pontifical Council for Culture. Its object is the cultural heritage of communities of consecrated life in all their expressions. There is a [call for papers](#); click here to read the [letter from the Vatican](#); download the [poster](#); and you can [register](#) from May 2021 onwards.

### **LAUDATO SI'+ – ONLINE CONFERENCE**

Topic: Laudato Si' +: Realising the vision of regenerating Earth's community of life  
Date: 15 – 17 March 2021  
Full Fee: \$165 (+GST if applicable)  
Registration: [Register online](#) and [download the flyer](#)

## **RESOURCES**

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### **THEOLOGY OF SAFEGUARDING**

Every month for nine months, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) will place a short video on an aspect of a Theology of Safeguarding on their website.

Nine videos have been commissioned from theologians, scripture scholars and ethicists who live and work in Ireland, Italy and the United States.

In month 10, October 2021, the NBSCCCI will host its National Conference on the theme of ***Towards a Theology of Safeguarding*** at which the questions posed by the video contributors will be addressed. The first presentation by Fr Hans Zollner SJ can be accessed now on the [NBSCCCI website](#).

You can find out more about the speakers, the conference and theology of safeguarding by [clicking here](#).

### LCWR REFLECTION BOOKLET

*Navigating Uncharted Waters* is the theme of the 2021 LCWR reflection book is, drawing from the 2020 presidential address of Jayne Helminger CSJ, in which she invites people to consider what type of vessels they need as they set “sail into deep, uncharted waters that await us.” In this reflection book, 40 LCWR members explore what it means to be in uncharted waters. Their writing will be accompanied by artwork by women religious as well as questions and suggestions for deepening the reader's own prayer. The cost of each book is \$6.00 (US) plus shipping and handling. Orders must be placed by February 16, 2021 and will be mailed in March. [Click here to order](#).

### LECTIO DIVINA FOR FEBRUARY

The Carmelites have [a Lectio Divina page](#) and invite you to join their Lectio Online group every Friday at 10am (AEDT) to prayerfully reflect on the coming Sunday's Gospel. [Register here](#).

### BESTSELLING BOOKS OF 2020

ATF Press has made a list of bestselling books in 2020, [take a look here](#).

### MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

Rehab 4 Addiction serves as an online resource to individuals and families dealing with substance abuse. They have prepared a [guide about guarding](#) mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may be useful in your ministries.

### 10 WAYS NFP EMPLOYERS CAN INCLUDE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

[Here are 10 key actions](#) NFP organisations can take to improve workplace inclusion for indigenous staff.

### LAUGHTER THERAPY

