



Women and the Australian Church Inc.
PO Box 952 Petersham
NSW 2049

18 February 2021

Dear Women Delegates,

This letter is being sent to you as a delegate of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Women and the Australian Church Inc. (WATAC) with the support of the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) would like to invite you and the other women delegates to meet together in person or by Zoom for the purpose of getting to know each other and for conversation and sharing.

One of the aims of WATAC is to encourage a model of church based on a “discipleship of equals” where men and women can be equally heard. Of the delegates listed to attend the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in 2021-2022 less than one third are women. As many of the women are from a range of backgrounds and locations, many will have had little opportunity to connect with each other and share their ideas as women. This is a very different situation from that of the men delegates, many of whom meet in various forums of clergy and bishops’ conferences, or work in church offices.

In offering this event to connect we recognise that women delegates to the Plenary Council have a diverse range of perspectives and lived experiences of being a Catholic woman in the Church today, and with a variety of reflections on the question “*What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this present time?*” We want to provide a space that will be open and respectful for all.

We are proposing a format that will include opportunities for delegates to get to know each other personally and have conversation together about the plenary council and any issues that might arise. Each delegate will be offered the option to be physically present “in the room” or attend via zoom. ACU has offered its North Sydney campus as a venue for an in-person gathering. There will be a team of facilitators, and the possibility of a follow-up gathering if it is desired.

The gathering is planned to take place on Thursday 29 April 2021, on the feast of St Catherine of Siena, between 1.30pm and 4pm (Sydney time; AEST) with a break between 2.30pm and 3pm. We hope that delegates who attend will move forward with a fuller appreciation of the gifts that they, as women delegates, bring to the discerning processes of the Plenary Council.

If you would like to receive an invitation to participate in this gathering, please complete the box below and return to assistant@watac.net.au by Monday 9 March 2021.

Warm regards,

Tracy McEwan (WATAC liaison)

Trish Madigan OP (CRA liaison)

Jacqui Rémond (ACU liaison)

Name:

Preferred email address:

Mobile number:

I wish to register my interest in the Meeting of Women Delegates to the Plenary Council on Thursday 29 April 2021 (circle preference) Yes / No

I would like to participate (circle preference) In Person / By Zoom