



WATAC PRESENTS ...

VIA ZOOM

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Opportunities for Dignity and Equality in the Church

Dr Cristina Lledo Gomez, theologian from BBI-The Australian Institute for Theological Education, and Stephanie Lorenzo, activist, are the guests for the next *WATAC Presents*, a free, one-hour, interactive webinar series organised by *Women and the Australian Church*.

The next *WATAC Presents* session is thus entitled *A Pilgrimage of Dignity and Equality*. It will address both the practical ways that women can work for change in the Catholic Church and the theological considerations for engaging in this work.

Cristina and Stephanie are core members of the Global Catholic Women's Catholic (CWC), an international umbrella group of Roman Catholic networks working for the full recognition of the dignity and equality of women in the Church. The CWC was formed in Stuttgart in November 2019 and became global in Rome in January 2020.

Andrea Dean, the president of *Women and the Australian Church* (WATAC), said "The interest in the first session of *WATAC Presents* was extraordinary! More than 100 people from across Australia participated; some used Zoom for the first time. It is thrilling to be part of this groundswell of support for a greater role for women in the Church."

Dr Lledo Gomez's book, *The Church As Woman and Mother* explored the gendered imaging and rhetoric used for and within both the ancient and contemporary Catholic Church. Cristina is keen to discuss how the Vatican image of woman has remained largely unchanged over centuries but wishes to point to hopeful signs and tools for change, from history, the rich Christian tradition, and the creativity of women during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Stephanie Lorenzo, a graduate of Loreto Kirribilli, is the founder of *Project Futures*, which alleviates the suffering caused by human trafficking and sexual exploitation. As Communications Director for *Voices of Faith*, an organisation lobbying for more Catholic women in decision making roles within the Catholic Church, Stephanie's focus is on effecting change using her knowledge and experience in marketing and communications. She is keen for Australian Catholic women to harness their combined energy for renewal and connection with groups such as the global CWC.

The dynamism of Cristina and Stephanie suggest it will be another powerful conversation. Don't miss it! To join the second session of *WATAC Presents* on Tuesday 11 August at 6 pm AEST register at www.watac.net.au.

Established in 1984, Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) is an incorporated organisation committed to a Church characterised by equality. For more information please contact Andrea Dean chair@watac.net.au; <https://watac.net.au/>