



MEDIA RELEASE

February 2019

Catholic women's organisations partner for International Women's Day celebrations

On Friday March 8, 2019, two Catholic women's organisations will come together for a special International Women's Day panel event. Jointly presented by **Catholic Women's League Sydney** and **Catholic Women's Mentoring**, the evening event will be held at the Polding Centre in Sydney and will include opportunities for networking, a panel discussion and Q&A and the chance to learn about what both organisations can offer Catholic women of Sydney and surrounds.

High profile Catholic journalist and Lawyer **Monica Doumit** will be hosting the panel which will explore the theme of **Cultivating Feminine Genius**. Monica is the Director of Public Affairs and Engagement for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Prior to this, she was the Archdiocesan Manager of Communications and the Communications Director for the Coalition for Marriage in the same-sex marriage postal vote. She is a writer and speaker, and a regular columnist for the Catholic Weekly. The panel will include **Rachel Wong**, **Sonia Di Mezza** and **Stephanie Lorenzo**. Rachel is Managing Director of Women's Forum Australia, and an Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Law at the University of Notre Dame Australia. Sonia Di Mezza is a solicitor, human rights lawyer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of an advocacy NGO, which advocates for the human rights of people with disabilities, people with mental health issues and older people. On a part-time basis Sonia works as a Research Officer for the Catholic Women's League of Australia (CWLA). Stephanie Lorenzo is the Communications Director of Voices of Faith and has worked in advocacy and purpose driven work for the past 12 years having started anti-human trafficking charity Project Futures at the age of 22.

Catholic Women's Mentoring Coordinator Christine Pace says it's an absolute privilege to partner with one of the most important Catholic organisations for women in NSW: "Catholic Women's League has supported so many women in their faith and lives for over well over a century. They are a network of faith-filled women who continue to make a huge impact on Australian Church life. I honour the work of the generations who built the legacy and am humbled to partner with those women who continue to carry the baton today, supporting and enriching the lives of Catholic women in Sydney."

Since its inception in 1913, **Catholic Women's League - Archdiocese of Sydney** has been a member organisation that aims to unite Sydney's Catholic women and coordinate with each other ways to support different groups and charities. As an organisation, CWL Sydney focuses on the current needs of our ever-changing society and provide an avenue for women to make a real difference in our Church and world. Each year we take on a project to support, either in Australia or abroad. Our current project supports the Thanh Tam Special School in Danang, Vietnam, aiding in providing an education for pre-school, school, and post-school aged children and youth with disabilities.

Catholic Women's Mentoring (CWM) aims to build the skills, confidence and networks of Australian Catholic women and increase their capacity to use their gifts and talents for the Australian Church and Australian society. Catholic Women's Mentoring launched in May 2017 in Sydney and has quickly become a national program with registrations from women from across Australia. Catholic Women's Mentoring operates under the umbrella of the Australian Catholic Bishop Conference's National Office of Participation of Women. Catholic Women's Mentoring's Annual Partner for 2018-2019 is Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund.

This event will take place on 8 March 2019 on Level 8 of the Polding Centre, Liverpool Street Sydney. RSVP by Wednesday 6 March 2019 to www.catholicwomensmentoring.org.au/SydneyIWD

Media Contact: Christine Pace, Coordinator of Catholic Women's Mentoring
E: info@catholicwomensmentoring.org.au P: 0421555629