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Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans

News Release 2 August 2022



ACRATH breakfast celebrates women leaders

Creative possibilities of leadership in the Catholic Church and the challenges women face, will be discussed at a zoom breakfast hosted by ACRATH on Tuesday 16th August at 8am.

ACRATH has organised this important zoom breakfast celebrating women leaders in the Catholic Church. The breakfast will feature talks by ACRATH President Clare Condon sgs and member Elizabeth Young rsm, followed by opportunities for discussion.

The online breakfast event, **Breakfast Celebrating Women Leaders**, will be held on **Tuesday 16 August at 8am (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney time)**. Please join our breakfast at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85139754420?pwd=enVTbkhyREQwbWdGa0YvUIBXLzN0Zz09>

ACRATH EO Christine Carolan said the breakfast was 'an action' response to the discussion during the recent Plenary Council.

"The breakfast is a chance to focus on the role of women as leaders in the Catholic Church in the 21st century," Christine said.

While women are limited in many aspects of leadership in the Catholic Church, women founded ACRATH almost 20 years ago and women hold most governance and management positions.

National Office

54 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park, Victoria 3206

Ph: 03 9645 5986 ABN: 66 128 994 560





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“ACRATH wants people to join in with our online breakfast because we want to encourage women to take initiatives and to know they belong amongst like-minded others. We in ACRATH know women are strong – as victim/ survivors of human trafficking, and as people who shine a light on the need for change.” Christine said.

Clare said she would use the opportunity to encourage women to take leadership and use their gifts for the future of the church. “I want to be able to encourage them to explore a variety of ways to exercise their leadership. Also what to do when they find it challenging to make headway and how to be creative in leadership,” Clare said.

“I want to talk about the importance of agency and being part of decision making when the issues affect oneself. As a group we need to explore how to be proactive and not acquiesce, but to take initiatives for change.”

Elizabeth, who works in regional NSW, said being part of ACRATH has alerted her to major sufferings and injustices of exploited people, especially women, around the world.

“There is so much potential for understanding and advocacy when women are in positions of leadership and bring models of leadership that aim to lift up vulnerable people. The Church plays a big part in this, as it can be seen as a voice of moral authority, and connects to those on the margins through grassroots parishes and agencies. Yet the spokespeople for the Church are usually the ordained, who have witness value in preaching during liturgy,” Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth believes women should be part of every leadership structure to bring diversity and models of leadership that can be “inclusive, discerning, prayerful, collaborative and empowering/transformational”.

Join Clare and Elizabeth and celebrate women leaders in the Catholic Church.

Media - Angela Duthie

Email: networks@acrath.org.au

Ph: 0430488001

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