



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Media Release

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Inspiring Conference Explores Formation in Catholic Education

On Sunday and Monday July 2-3, 2023, The University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) and Catholic Education Western Australia Limited (CEWA) joined forces to host a conference titled 'Formation as the Foundation'.

Held on UNDA's Fremantle campus, this exceptional event showcased the sustained partnership between UNDA and CEWA while delving into the pivotal role of formation in Catholic education.

Gathering expert speakers renowned in their respective fields, the conference provided a platform for reflection, dialogue, and inspiration. Participants were challenged to navigate the complexities of education and explore the fundamental importance of formation as a bedrock for future success.

By recentring the human person in Catholic education, attendees were called to find the courage to address the challenges ahead.

Keynote speakers at the conference included esteemed UNDA scholars Prof Leonardo Franchi, Prof Fr Eamonn Conway, and Prof Stephen Bullivant. Each speaker brought their unique perspective and reflections on the conference's theme, enriching the participants' learning experience.

In speaking about the conference, CEWA Executive Director, Dr Debra Sayce said "As Catholic educators, we are tasked not only with developing life-long learners but in supporting students to come to know Jesus Christ and inspiring all in our school communities to actively live the Gospel. To ensure we as educators are serving that mission fully, it is important for all of us, no matter what stage of our journey, to commit to ongoing faith formation and to ongoing learning. It was a privilege to welcome speakers of such a high calibre to Western Australia and to share in their expertise to help as we broaden our knowledge and understanding."

Associate Dean Research Associate Professor Christine Robinson shared her perspective, saying, "Formation as the Foundation was a true representation of the partnership that exists between UNDA and CEWA. Our speakers re-emphasised the centrality of the Christian human person within Catholic Education and the conference provided a dialogue amongst Catholic educators that was heart to heart, calling us to find courage in our vocation."

By leveraging the collective expertise and resources of both CEWA and UNDA, events like this aim to create more enriching learning opportunities and foster continued growth in Catholic education.

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