



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life

Diocese of Wollongong to host Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention 2012

At a recent meeting of the Australian Catholic Youth Council and a subsequent meeting of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, the Diocese of Wollongong was appointed as hosting diocese for the next Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention 2012.

Following on the success of the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention (ACYMC) 2010 hosted in Melbourne, the Bishops Commission will again seek to gather youth ministers from around the country to learn, share and network about ministry with young people in the Catholic Church in Australia.

In October 2010 over 400 youth ministers, speakers and staff gathered at the ACU Melbourne for the inaugural ACYMC. The event was hailed as a huge success by then Bishops Delegate for Youth, the late Bishop Joseph Grech, and plans for a follow up event were quickly put into place.

Malcolm Hart, the Senior Youth Ministry Projects Officer for the Commission said he has been overwhelmed by positive feedback and support for the convention in 2010.

"The ACYMC 2010 in Melbourne was a great moment for the youth ministry community in Australia. The success and feedback from the event from participants and bishops has encouraged us to host another gathering in 2012. I am looking forward to working with the Diocese of Wollongong and other youth ministers in the greater Sydney area to create another spirit filled national gathering."

The Diocese of Wollongong nomination came from Loretta Brinkman, the Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, with the support of her Bishop, Peter Ingham. Loretta expressed a great desire to host the convention in light of the need for local training and formation initiatives in the diocese.

"Hosting the ACYMC in 2012 is an exciting opportunity to support our local youth ministry, while engaging the national youth ministry body. In 2012 our Diocesan Youth Ministry Focus will be to *'develop a trained and well-resourced youth ministry across the Diocese'* and the ACYMC is the best opportunity in Australia to do this."

"Although hosted here, the ACYMC is a national gathering and we are looking forward to working with the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life to utilise the skills of a variety of youth ministers from, parishes, religious orders and communities to create a gathering which welcomes and inspires everyone."

Bishop Peter Ingham also expressed his joy in hosting the gathering.

"Hosting and attending national events is a great way for everyone in Australia to gain a larger vision and understanding of the church beyond their parish and diocese. We strengthen our own relationship with Jesus Christ when we act in solidarity with other believers. It will be a blessing for our diocese to host the Youth Ministry Convention and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone."

Preparations for the next ACYMC have already begun with date being set for September 21st – 23rd 2012 and with several venues being identified in Campbelltown in the north of the Wollongong Diocese.

"Campbelltown is easily accessible from Sydney airport and Sydney public transport" said Loretta. "There are also several venue options depending on the Convention's needs."

A Local Organising Committee chaired by Malcolm Hart will be established in coming weeks and it will begin the task of identifying keynote speakers, workshop options and presenters, and preparing the variety of other creative elements which made the 2010 convention a great success.

Further information about the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention 2012, including speakers and costs, will be posted on the Convention website www.acymc.org over the coming months. You can also contact Malcolm Hart via youthministry@catholic.org.au or 0419 951 417.

