



**Media Release**

**March 25**

**Young Australian delegates attend International Youth Forum.**

Two Australian young people, Devett O'Brien and Bethany Lentern, are in the Italian-town Rocca di Papa attending the 10th International Youth Forum, which will include celebrations for the 25th World Youth Day this Sunday.

The International Youth Forum is held once every three years, and is organised by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

This year the event is themed "*Learning to Love*", with a particular focus on the vocation and call to marriage. The 300 participants will discuss and reflect on the importance of love in family life, religious life and priesthood and will be able to attend forums and workshops on related topics.

Bishop Joseph Grech from the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life is confident that the two Australian delegates Devett and Bethany will contribute much to the gathering.

"These two young people have a wealth of experience in working with young people around Australia, with particular focus on people at the margins. In particular, Devett's work in rural areas with the Young Christian Students (YCS), and Bethany's commitment to working with young migrants and refugees in Western Sydney through parish-based and national movements make them particularly impressive candidates", said Bishop Joe.

"Both of them are passionate about the needs of young people, and they both see the need for the promotion of young people's participation in the Church", he said.

Bethany Lentern is now the Youth Coordinator in the diocese of Rockhampton and a member of the Australian YCW movement. She has a bachelor of theology from Australian Catholic University. Devett O'Brien has just finished a term as the Campaign Development Officer for the National Young Christian Students movement (YCS), and has been actively involved in youth and young adult ministry for over 10 years.

The International Youth Forum begins today and will finish with Palm Sunday Mass with the Pope on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a mass which is expected to draw thousands of people from around the world.

**For media enquiries, please contact Beth Doherty on 0407 081 256.**