



National Marriage

Day Committee

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Parish communities urged to wear Marriage Rosette on National Marriage Day**

A gold rose on a ruby ribbon is the symbol of National Marriage Day and Mrs Mary-Louise Fowler, National Vice-President of the Australian Family Association and Coordinator of National Marriage Day, wants to spread this symbol around Australia as a sign of support for the renewal of marriage in Australia.

“Our nation’s future depends on restoring a strong culture of marriage. It is important therefore that as a nation we encourage couples to embrace the commitment of marriage and to support them throughout their married life.”

With these words, Mrs Fowler urges Catholics all over Australia to get behind this years’ National Marriage Day on the 13th August by wearing the Marriage Rosette.

“Catholics generally have a deep appreciation of the importance of marriage for the welfare and benefit of the family and society. I am therefore urging Catholics especially to lead the way in promoting a renewed culture of marriage in Australia. Wearing the Marriage Rosette is a public testimony to the importance of marriage.”

National Marriage Day was instituted on 13th August 2009 to both defend and promote the institution of marriage.

This year the main events will be held in Sydney. The first event will be a dinner on Thursday August 12 with Dr Allan Carlson, the General Secretary of the World Congress of Families as the guest speaker. This will be followed by a free public event at lunchtime in the CBD of Sydney (possibly Martin Place) on 13th August. This event will feature Dr Allan Carlson as keynote speaker and the announcement of the 2010 National Marriage Day Ambassadors.

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Mrs Fowler insists “The demise of marriage is having serious consequences all around the world. No more babble. We need to see concrete, practical measures implemented to foster marriage.”

It is with this in mind that the Australian Family Association and the National Marriage Coalition will launch the National Marriage Benefit Pack on National Marriage Day. This will contain a range of measures that political parties can implement if they are serious about strengthening marriage.

“Catholic parishes and schools are ready-made networks. If these networks can get behind the Australian Family Association by disseminating information and selling Marriage Rosettes they would be sowing the seeds for a marriage revolution. We really need to work together. Our committee will be contacting parishes soon, seeking their help in supporting this project. If your parish is not approached, you may still get involved by contacting your State Branch of the Australian Family Association. Details are at [www.family.org.au](http://www.family.org.au).”

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To obtain high resolution versions of images that can be used for National Marriage Day promotion please email Phil Murphy at [greatthouart@gmail.com](mailto:greatthouart@gmail.com) or phone 0421 457 313

#### **About Mary-Louise Fowler**

Mary-Louise Fowler is currently Coordinator of the National Marriage Day Committee as well as Vice-President of the Australian Family Association. She is married with four adult children and resides near Young in southern NSW.



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