



## Media Release

July 22, 2010

### Women's Fellowship gears up for fourth year – Applications now open!

The Office for the Participation of Women, an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in collaboration with Australian Catholic University has announced the fourth Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship which will run between January and May 2011 in Canberra.

The Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship program aims to enhance the participation of young women in the Catholic Church, and foster both academic and faith formation for future female Church leaders. The fellowship is a live-in experience which includes academic, theological and spiritual formation components.

The program is delivered through the Australian Catholic University's Signadou Campus in Canberra and fellowship recipients upon successful completion receive a Graduate Certificate in Interfaith Relations from the ACU. All accommodation, food and tuition are covered as part of this program, which is sponsored by some religious orders, Catholic agencies and foundations.

2006 recipient Chantelle Ogilvie speaks of the Fellowship as one of the most formative experiences of her life.

“Over three years later I can still see the impact it had on my spirituality and mission. It has enhanced my interactions with people of other faiths, leading me into such experiences as a peace-building conference in Manila, representing the National Council of Churches on the Australian National Dialogue of Christian, Muslims and Jews and at an ecumenical course in Indonesia.”

“It has also greatly increased my self-confidence and willingness to undertake bigger ministries, like World Youth Day and my current role with the Justice and Peace Office in Sydney Archdiocese. Most importantly I think the fellowship transformed my understanding of my faith; I found God much bigger than I had supposed, and the Church broader and its tradition deeper. Those realities still breathe life into my day to day now, and for that I'm very grateful”, said Chantelle.

Applications are open from now until October 8, 2010, for young Catholic women from mid-20's to mid-30's who are passionate about the involvement of women in Church. The flyer, application form and referee form are now available for download on the OPW website [www.opw.catholic.org.au](http://www.opw.catholic.org.au).

**For media enquiries, contact ACBC Communications Officer Beth Doherty on 0407 081 256 or Fellowship Coordinator Sr Ruth Durick on 0408357811**