



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Catechesis and Persons with Disabilities:  
A Necessary Engagement in the Daily Pastoral Life of the Church**

20-22 October 2017

Pontifical University Urbiana, Rome

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, in collaboration with The Kairos Forum, is hosting an International Convention in Rome during October for more than 450 participants working in the area of catechesis for persons with disabilities.

Recognising the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the Conference, at its heart, will honour persons with disabilities and highlight the unique blessings they bring to the Christian community.

“We believe, this Conference will empower people from around the world to make a positive difference in their local parishes and communities,” says Australian Co-ordinator, Dr Zachariah Duke, Associate Dean, BBI - The Australian Institute of Theological Education.

“It is about bringing our theology and pastoral practice into dialogue with one another – sometimes there is a disjoint between the two, and it is the hope of this Conference to iron out any disjoints!”

Following on from the success of the 2016 Conference – *Living Fully*, the 2017 Conference will hear from international experts including Archbishop Rino Fisichella (Vatican), Cristina Gangemi (England), Isabel de la Taste (France), Fr Gabriele Pipinato (Kenya) and Anne Dewulf (Belgium).

Bishop Peter A Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay will lead a joint session with Prof Miguel Romero (USA) on the *Celebration of the Christian Mystery – Sacraments as precious occasions for catechesis*.

“Those among us who are profoundly, cognitively impaired live a graced humanity,” he says.

“It is for everyone to recognise that they are privileged stewards of sacramental faith because they are quite ordinarily participants in the life of Christ.”

Program highlights over the three days include exploration of prayer and the experience of catechesis, pastoral and catechetical tools enabling inclusion of persons with disabilities, protection of persons with disabilities, and an Audience with the Holy Father in the Apostolic Palace.

For further information visit: <https://www.livingfully2016.com/catechesis-and-persons-with-disabil>

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