

## ACU hosts second Sydney Archdiocese Plenary Council Working Group Tertiary Consultation

AFTER the success of the first Sydney Archdiocese Plenary Council Working Group Tertiary Consultation, Australian Catholic University (ACU) hosted a second consultation process for those working within tertiary ministry within the Archdiocese of Sydney at its North Sydney Campus last week.

As Chair of the Sydney Archdiocese Plenary Working Group Tertiary Sub-Committee, Father Anthony Casamento cmsa was pleased to welcome participants back to the second listening and dialogue session to continue the promising start that was made towards preparing a submission for the Plenary Council.

Representatives from Catholic and secular universities, Catholic residential colleges, academics, the Catholic Institute of Sydney, seminarians and those working in post school ministry took part in the event.

ACU Associate Director Church Policy Dr Nigel Zimmermann facilitated the second session. Dr Zimmermann drew on the responses and the rich discussion from the first session to draft the summary statement which reads as follows:

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time...in the Tertiary sector?

“God is challenging us to draw on the fullness of the Holy Spirit to more effectively form and prepare staff who minister in the higher education sector to evangelise tertiary students. We are being asked by the Lord to do so through the Catholic intellectual tradition, offering authentic encounters with the risen Christ, and welcoming people into a respectful space in which the objectivity of truth is not reduced, despite the limitations and shortcomings of our contemporary culture.”

During the second session participants worked through the final stage of the listening and dialogue process, entering into a deeper discussion on what this meant for us in the Church.

Father Anthony said: "It was a privilege to host a gathering like this and to support the Church in Sydney and Australia through a practical and thoughtful Listening and Dialogue session. It reminded me of our mission here at ACU in service to truth and love, in simple and intelligent acts of service."

Dr Zimmermann said: "It is inspiring to be part of this consultation and to witness the dedication and shared wisdom from Catholic leaders in the tertiary sector. We've learned a great deal and will make a submission that can assist the Archbishop of Sydney and the Church's journey to the Plenary Council."

Following the session the group joined the ACU campus community for Mass which was celebrated by Father Anthony in Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel on campus.

The submission will be of assistance to the Archbishop and Bishops of Sydney in presenting the life and needs of the Church in Sydney during the 2020 Plenary Council.

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